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Panel asks govt to define 'fake news', mulls on fines

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India beat UAE by nine wickets within 4.3 overs

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈہ روزنامہ بنگلور

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UNFILTERED

"I am an uncompromising nationalist...Chhatrapati Shivaji fought foreign aggressors, while Ambedkar fought oppression. Because of such visionaries, India has remained a democracy while our neighbour Pakistan struggled to sustain it

—CP Radhakrishnan, VP elect

Nepal Army takes over as GenZ pitch ex-CJI as Interim Head

KATHMANDU, 10 SEPT

Nepal began returning to normalcy on Wednesday after days of violent anti-corruption protests led by Gen Z demonstrators forced Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to resign. As the situation stabilised, protest leaders began deliberations on an interim government, with former Chief Justice Sushila Karki emerging as the frontrunner.

Other names under consideration include Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah and former electricity board CEO Kulman Ghising. A four-hour virtual meeting among protest leaders concluded that no youth with political affiliations would be considered for leadership roles.

Karki, the only woman to have served as Nepal's Chief Justice, was chosen for her neutrality and credibility. She stated her top priorities would be restoring peace and conducting fresh elections within a year.

Born in 1952 in Biratnagar, Karki holds degrees in political science and law from Banaras Hindu University and Tribhuvan University. She is known for verdicts against corruption.

Elections will likely be held within the next six months.

Following violent unrest, the Nepal Army took control of national security on Tuesday night, imposing curfews and restrictive orders until 6am Thursday. .

The Srmy warned that any form of demonstrations, vandalism, arson, or attacks on individuals and property during the restrictive period would be treated as criminal acts and dealt with accordingly. According to the Ministry of Health, the death toll from the protests has risen to 30, with 1,061 injured. Of these, 719 have been discharged and 274 remain hospitalised. Media reports state five juvenile inmates died in clashes with security forces, while over 7,000 prisoners escaped from jails across the country during the unrest. *—PTI*

>>>More on Pages 3 & 5

"We are proud of our Constitution, see what is happening in neighbouring countries (like Nepal)", said CJI BR Gavai, to which, Justice Vikram Nath added, "And Bangladesh".

EC to rollout SIR across India soon

EC sources say it will done by the end of 2025

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

The Election Commission (EC) is expected to soon announce a nationwide rollout of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, likely to be completed by the end of 2025, officials said on Wednesday.

Following a day-long meeting with state Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs), the EC said the pan-India SIR will follow the recent rollout in Bihar, where the exercise aims to clean up voter lists, particularly targeting the removal of illegal foreign migrants.

Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are due in 2026, making the revision timely. The SIR will include house-to-house verification to ensure accuracy and eliminate ineligible entries.

The primary aim of the SIR is to weed out foreign nationals, particularly from Bangladesh and Myanmar, who may have entered voter rolls. Amid Opposition allegations that the EC has manipulated data to benefit the BJP, the Commission has introduced an additional declaration form for applicants born after 1 July, 1987.

- Some Opposition parties have criticised the Bihar SIR, arguing that many eligible voters may lose their franchise due to document requirements.

Applicants must now provide proof of birth and, in some cases, parental birth details.

The Supreme Court has directed the EC to ensure no eligible citizen is excluded from the process.

Some Opposition parties have criticised the Bihar SIR, arguing that many eligible voters may lose their franchise due to document requirements. However, the EC maintains that the exercise is essential to protect the integrity of electoral rolls.

States have been asked to publish the last SIR electoral rolls as reference points. For instance, Delhi's last SIR was in 2008 and Uttarakhand's in 2006. Most states had their last SIR between 2002 and 2004. *—PTI*

India, US ties begin to thaw after weeks of tiff

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

After weeks of rising diplomatic friction, relations between India and the United States showed signs of thawing on Tuesday. US President Donald Trump announced via Truth Social that negotiations are underway to address trade barriers between the two countries.

"I look forward to speaking with my very good friend, Prime Minister Modi, in the upcoming weeks," Trump wrote. "I feel certain that there will be no difficulty in coming to a successful conclusion for both of our Great Countries!"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded positively, reposting a screenshot of Trump's message. "I am confident that our trade negotiations will pave the way for unlocking the limitless potential of the India–US partnership," he said. "Our teams are working to conclude these discussions at the earliest."

The exchange comes amid rising diplomatic efforts to ease recent tensions, triggered by Trump's decision to double tariffs on Indian goods, including a 25 per cent levy tied to India's continued purchase of discounted Russian crude oil.

The Financial Times also reported that Trump has urged the European Union to impose similar 100 per cent tariffs on China and India. However, no official confirmation has come from either side. *—PTI*

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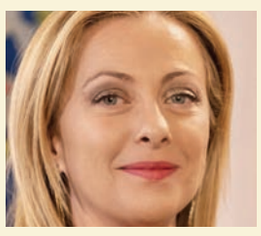

MODI DIALS MELONI FOR EU-INDIA FTA

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni on Wednesday, discussing the proposed India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) and thanking her for Italy's support. The leaders also reviewed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) and efforts to end the Ukraine conflict. India and the EU aim to finalise the FTA by year-end, with the 13th round of talks underway in New Delhi. FTA negotiations resumed in June 2022 after an eight-year pause.

CPR likely to take oath as VP on 12 Sept

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Vice President-elect C P Radhakrishnan is likely to be administered the oath of office by President Droupadi Murmu on Friday, officials said. The president is expected to administer the oath of office to Radhakrishnan at a formal ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 12 September, they said. The 67-year-old Radhakrishanan won the vice-presidential election on Tuesday, defeating the joint opposition nominee B Sudershan Reddy by a margin of 152 votes. The election was necessitated due to the sudden resignation of the then incumbent, Jagdeep Dhankhar, on 21 July. *—PTI*

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World Bank gives $212M for K'taka coastal communities

CHENNAI, 10 SEPT

The World Bank has approved a new programme to support coastal communities in India by conserving ecosystems, reducing plastic pollution and creating jobs for 1 lakh people in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The USD 212.64 million Strengthening Coastal Resilience and the Economy (SHORE) project is part of the USD 850 million SHORE programme that has been initiated by the World Bank to address challenges faced by the coastal communities. India has a long coastline of more than 11,000 km, while one-third of it is vulnerable to erosion and extreme climate events. Around 250 million people depend on coastal areas for their livelihood. *—PTI*

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NEW PM FACES CENSURE THREAT AS MASS PROTESTS BREAKOUT IN FRANCE

PARIS, 10 SEPT

Newly appointed French Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu faced immediate political turmoil on his first day in office, with the Far-Left France Unbowed party threatening a censure motion. Lecornu, France's fourth PM in a year, replaced François Bayrou, whose government was toppled in a no-confidence vote on Monday.

Nationwide protests erupted under the slogan "Block Everything" against President Macron's policies. Lecornu, a Macron ally and former defence minister, pledged to consult all political forces and unions before forming his Cabinet. With no parliamentary majority, he must seek compromises to govern. Both the Socialists and Greens criticised his appointment, while Far-Right leader Marine Le Pen mocked it as another likely failure under Macron's fragmented leadership. *—PTI*

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Govt says guvs cleared 90% of bills

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the registration of an FIR against former Delhi Police Commissioner Neeraj Kumar in a two-decade-old case involving alleged document fabrication and criminal intimidation during his tenure as Joint Director in the CBI.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and P B Varale upheld a 2019 Delhi High Court order directing investigation into the matter. The Court remarked, "It is high time that sometimes those who investigate must also be investigated, to keep alive public faith in the system."

The case, dating back to 2001, stems from complaints by Sheesh Ram Saini and Vijay Kumar Aggarwal. Saini alleged fabrication of documents by Kumar and then CBI officer Vinod Kumar Pandey, while Aggarwal accused Pandey of criminal intimidation at Kumar's behest. Aggarwal was under CBI investigation alongside his brother, former ED officer Ashok Aggarwal.

The Court directed the Delhi Police Special Cell to probe the case under an officer not below ACP rank and complete the investigation within three months.

It emphasised that FIR registration would not prejudice the officers, who will have full opportunity to defend themselves. If they cooperate, no arrest will be made unless custodial interrogation becomes necessary. *—PTI*

Those who investigate must also be probed: SC

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

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If they cooperate, no arrest will be made unless custodial interrogation becomes necessary. *—PTI*

Physiotherapists are not doctors, cannot use 'Dr': Govt

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has issued a directive stating physiotherapists are not entitled to use the prefix "Dr," which is reserved solely for registered medical practitioners.

In a letter to Indian Medical Association (IMA) President Dr Dilip Bhanushali, DGHS Director Dr Sunita Sharma said that physiotherapists are not trained medical doctors and using the "Dr" prefix misleads patients and the public, potentially encouraging quackery.

Physiotherapists should only treat referred patients and not practice primary care, as they lack diagnostic training. *—PTI*

NIMHANS RAISES ALARM

Karnataka's suicide rate at 20.2%, 8% above national average

BENGALURU, 10 SEPT

Karnataka's suicide rate stands at 20.2 per cent, significantly above the national average of 12.4 per cent, according to NIMHANS, citing NCRB 2022 data. The State records 13,606 suicides annually, with Bengaluru ranking third among Indian megacities for suicide cases.

Marking World Suicide Prevention Day and the first anniversary of its N-SPRITE Centre (Suicide Prevention, Research, Implementation, Training and Engagement), NIMHANS highlighted efforts to reduce repeat self-harm attempts through its USHAS project.

USHAS (Urban Self-Harm Study), run in collaboration with the Karnataka government, has drastically reduced repeat self-harm rates in 16 public hospitals across 11 districts. "More than 10 per cent of those who attempt self-harm may eventually die by suicide. With USHAS, re-attempts have dropped to 1.19 per cent and deaths to just 0.2 per cent," said NIMHANS Director Dr Pratima Murthy.

The project screens individuals at emergency departments, maintains registries, provides brief interventions, and follows up via phone. It also runs YASHAS, a youth-focused mental health component.

Since 2022, USHAS has registered 20,861 individuals, majority in the 25-39 age group (44.37 per cent), followed by 18–24 (28.87 per cent). Of these, 55.76 per cent were male, 44.15 per cent female, and 0.09 per cent transgender. A high proportion had substance use histories. Interventions were offered to 16,264 individuals. Of these, 194 (1.19 per cent) re-attempted self-harm, and 37 (0.2 per cent) died. Among young people, key triggers included dysmenorrhoea, PMS, PMDD, and postpartum mental health challenges, NIMHANS noted. *—PTI*

Umar moves SC after HC denies him bail

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Activist Umar Khalid has approached the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court's refusal to grant him bail in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case linked to the February 2020 Delhi riots.

On 2 September, the High Court denied bail to Khalid and eight others, including Sharjeel Imam and Gulfisha Fatima, stating that "conspiratorial" violence under the guise of protests could not be tolerated.

The court stressed that the right to protest under Article 19(1)(a) is not absolute and is subject to reasonable restrictions to maintain law and order.

The accused are alleged masterminds behind the riots during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC), which resulted in 53 deaths and over 700 injuries.

All accused have denied the charges and have been in custody since 2020. They initially sought bail in the trial court, which was rejected before approaching the High Court.

Last week, Sharjeel Imam and Gulfisha Fatima also appealed to the Supreme Court against the bail denial. *—PTI*

College takes Mangalsutra as transfer docu fee

KOPPAL, 10 SEPT

A private nursing college in Koppal allegedly took a woman's gold Mangalsutra as security against a pending fee before releasing the woman's daughter's transfer certificate. Kaveri Walikar, of Maslapur village, had paid Rs 10,000 of the Rs 1 lakh fee at BBC Nursing College in Gangavati town, before securing a government seat in Gadag. When the pair sought a transfer certificate, college chairman Dr Chiniwal demanded that the family pays the full amount before issuing the document. After the family told him about their financial conditions, he said that they could use the Mangalsutra, which the mother was wearing, as the pending fee. The actions is being criticised on social media and among the students. —*Salar News*

HAL ties up with ISRO for satellite launches

BENGALURU, 10 SEPT

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), in partnership with IN-SPACe, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), and ISRO, on Wednesday signed a technology transfer agreement for the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). The SSLV is a three-stage launch vehicle capable of placing satellites weighing less than 500 kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO). Under the agreement, HAL will absorb the technology over the next two years, followed by a ten-year production phase. HAL has been granted a non-exclusive, non-transferable license covering all aspects of SSLV technology, including design, manufacturing, quality control, integration, launch operations, post-flight analysis, training, and support. The company will lead mass production of SSLVs to meet both domestic and international demand. HAL Chairman and Managing Director D K Sunil said the company will work closely with IN-SPACe, ISRO, and NSIL to indigenise, absorb, and commercialise the technology, ensuring high standards of reliability in small satellite launch services. —*PTI*

Woman hacked to death by in-law in Belagavi

BELAGAVI, 10 SEPT

A woman was hacked to death by her brother-in-law on Wednesday morning over a property dispute. The incident took place in Tilakwadi, a suburban locality in Belagavi. The accused has been arrested. Tilakwadi police said the deceased is Geeta Gavali and the alleged accused is Ganesh Gavali. Ganesh, a rowdy sheeter, allegedly hit Geeta some 20 times before killing her on the spot. Police said Ganesh was claiming rights to a 40×12 plot, which belonged to Geeta's deceased husband. —*Salar News*

Vidhana Soudha is all decked up with tricolor ahead of the 11th conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Division of India, in Bengaluru, on Wednesday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

World Bank approves $212.64M for K'taka, TN

Aims to benefit 1.7 lakh people along the coastal regions

CHENNAI, 10 SEPT

The World Bank has approved a new programme to support coastal communities in India by conserving ecosystems, reducing plastic pollution and creating jobs for 1 lakh people in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

The USD 212.64 million Strengthening Coastal Resilience and the Economy (SHORE) project is part of the USD 850 million SHORE programme that has been initiated by the World Bank to address challenges faced by the coastal communities.

India has a long coastline of more than 11,000km, while one-third of it is vulnerable to erosion and extreme climate events. Around 250 million people depend on coastal areas for their livelihood. The coastline also provides habitats for 18,000 known species of flora and fauna, offering vital economic opportunities and sources of livelihood for coastal communities.

However, marine ecosystems are at risk by the combined effect of coastal erosion, pollution, intensive fishing, degradation of mangrove forests and urban pressures.

"In Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the project would support the coastal management plans of the two States by helping 1 lakh people through enhanced knowledge, skill development and by leveraging funds for government agencies and local communities," a press release from the World Bank said on Wednesday.

The programme would also help 70,000 people, including women, receive training in sectors like sustainable tourism to gain new sources of income.

World Bank's Acting Country Director for India, Paul Procee said, "India's Vision 2030 has recognised the potential of the blue economy to power its economic growth. This Project will help states tap into private sector sources to mitigate the impacts of plastic pollution and to foster eco-tourism in selected areas."

The project would help the two States to conserve 30,000 hectares of seascapes by planting mangroves, restoration of sand dunes among others, the release added. —*PTI*

AUTHORITY EQUAL TO CIVIL COURT

State notifies new law to curb illegal mining, seize assets

BENGALURU, 10 SEPT

The State government has notified a new law aimed at strengthening action against illegal mining and recovering assets accumulated through unlawful means.

The Karnataka Appointment of Recovery Commissioner for Seizure and Attachment of Property of Illegal Mining and Proceeds of Crime Act, 2025 was published in the State gazette after receiving Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's assent on 9 September. The legislation provides for the appointment of a recovery commissioner, a senior officer not below the rank of additional chief secretary, to oversee attachment and forfeiture proceedings across the state.

Under the Act, the recovery commissioner will have the power to seize movable and immovable assets derived from illegal mining, supervise subordinate officers, and exercise authority equivalent to a civil court. Provisions for provisional attachment of property, confirmation of forfeiture by the government, appointment of administrators for seized assets, and appellate mechanisms are included in the law. Pending cases related to seizure and attachment will also be transferred to the recovery commissioner.

The Bill was passed by both houses in recently concluded legislative session. —*PTI*

ACCIDENT PRONE

A large pothole marked with leaves to ward off accidents on Cunningham Road in Bengaluru, on Wednesday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

SC members protest for higher quota

BENGALURU, 10 SEPT

Representative from a few Scheduled Caste communities on Wednesday held a protest in the City, alleging "injustice" in the government's internal reservation formula.

The protest opposed the government's decision to club 59 nomadic castes along with Banjara, Bhovi, Koracha, and Korama communities into one bracket, and providing them with 5 per cent reservation.

The protesters demanded enhanced reservations for these communities. The protest led to a major traffic jam around Freedom Park as the agitators tried to march towards Vidhana Soudha.

The protesters withdrew after submitting a memorandum to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, and giving the government one week's time to reconsider its reservation formula, police said..

The protests were led by BJP State General Secretary and former legislator P Rajeev. Earlier, State BJP President BY Vijayendra also met protesters.

The internal reservation decision was aimed at slicing up the 17 per cent reservation matrix given to 101 scheduled castes. Of the 17 per cent reservation that SCs have in the State, the new formula allocates the SC (Right) and SC (Left) 6 per cent each, while the 'touchable' Dalit communities (Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha) and most backward/nomadic communities get 5 per cent.

The State Cabinet had decided on an internal reservation by accepting the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission's report with some alterations.

The commission had made recommendation for internal reservation in five categories: 'most backward' communities (group A)- 1 per cent, SC (Left)/Madiga community (group B) 6 per cent, SC (Right)/Holeya (group C)- 5 per cent, 'touchable' communities (group D)- 4 per cent, and Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida and Adi Andhra communities (group E)- 1 per cent. —*PTI*

DK Shivakumar slams ED for arresting Cong's Sail

BENGALURU, 10 SEPT

State Deputy Chief Minister **DK Shivakumar** on Wednesday criticised the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over the arrest of Congress MLA Satish Sail, asserting there was "no situation" to warrant his detention and claiming Congress leaders are being "selectively targeted" for political reasons.

Sail, 59, who represents Karwar in Uttara Kannada district, was taken into ED custody late Tuesday night following questioning at the agency's Bengaluru zonal office, according to officials. He has been accused of money laundering in connection with alleged illegal iron ore exports in the state.

Shivakumar emphasised that the matter has been under investigation since 2010 and suggested the timing of Sail's arrest appeared politically motivated.

This is the second recent arrest of a Karnataka Congress legislator by the ED. Last month, Chitradurga MLA KC Veerendra 'Puppy' was detained in a separate money laundering case linked to illegal betting.

The probe against Sail traces back to a 2010 Karnataka Lokayukta investigation, which found that approximately eight lakh tonnes of iron ore had been illegally transported from Bellary to Belekeri port, allegedly involving a company linked to him. —*PTI*

10 jail inmates ransack kitchen over poor food

CHIKKABALLAPUR, 10 SEPT

Notorious criminal Bombay Saleem and nine of his associates were transferred out of Chikkaballapur jail after they allegedly attacked jail officials. Saleem was moved to Ballari jail.

On Monday, Saleem and his associates got into a heated argument with Assistance Sub Inspector Mallikarjun over poor quality food.

Saleem accused the jail staffers of not giving him breakfast before he was taken to court. They soon ransacked the kitchen and even brought out the cylinders, police said. As some of the jail authorities were making videos of the incident, Saleem and his aides allegedly attacked the officials.

They destroyed the body-worn cameras of the cops and locked one staffer in a storeroom. Luckily, cops soon brought the situation under control.

Four FIRs have been booked at Chikkaballapura Rural police station over the ransacking of jail property. Kushal Chouske, Superintendent of Police, Chikkaballapur, said Saleem is charged in a kidnapping case and was arrested two years ago.

He is facing murder and extortion charges too. Chousky added that there were also reports of jail inmates using mobile phones, which will be investigated. Saleem's aides were sent to Chitradurga jail.—*Salar News*

'PEACEFUL DURING CURFEW'

Anarchy everywhere, says tourist in Kathmandu

BENGALURU, 10 SEPT

Indian tourists, many from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, are stranded in Kathmandu after unrest swept through the capital of Nepal, a tourist said on Wednesday. Gauri K, who had gone on a Kailash-Mansarovar expedition with her sister, said she was stuck along with a large number of Indians at a hotel.

"We had a flight (on Wednesday), but due to unrest in Kathmandu, all airline companies have cancelled their services. I am now held up in this hotel," Gauri, a Chennai resident working in the City, told PTI over phone from Kathmandu.

She said the tourist agency had booked the hotel only until Tuesday, but with flights cancelled, guests could not leave.

According to her, over 150 Indian tourists were staying at the hotel, including 20 from the City.

According to Gauri, over 150 Indian tourists were staying at the hotel *PHOTO: PTI*

Describing Tuesday's situation, Gauri said, "There was absolute anarchy everywhere. Smoke was billowing from buildings torched by mobs. Though a curfew was in place, youths were roaming freely, and we also heard gunshots intermittently."

She added that Wednesday was relatively peaceful due to the curfew, but "gun-totting students were still roaming on the roads."

The hotel staff warned guests not to venture out under any circumstances, citing 'mobocracy' dominating Kathmandu.

"We are praying for the resumption of flight services. We also heard that airlines are making a killing by charging astronomical prices from Kathmandu to New Delhi," she said. Gauri also expressed concern about hotel charges for the extended stay.

The protests were triggered by the government's decision to ban several social media sites, and later turned into a movement against corruption, ousting much of the Nepali government. —*PTI*

Kannadigas stranded in Nepal are safe: State CMO

BENGALURU, 10 SEPT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office said people from the State who are stranded in Nepal are safe.

"Kannadigas stranded in Nepal are safe.

The Chief Secretary of the State Government and the Resident Commissioner of Karnataka Bhavan in Delhi are in touch with the Kannadigas who are in various teams," the Chief Minister's office said in a statement.

Officials of the State government have been in touch with the External Affairs Ministry, and steps are being taken to bring back the Kannadigas safely, as directed by CM Siddaramaiah, it said. —*PTI*

CM RELEASES HOUSING DATA

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a meeting at the Krishna Home Office on Wednesday on the ongoing housing schemes. He released the data on the projects – which had earlier created a massive political controversy over alleged corruption in the allocation.

- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)**
- 47,848 houses were sanctioned, including 43,874 houses during Congress government's previous term.
- 13,303 houses are nearly completed. 25,815 houses are under construction.
- A beneficiary contribution of Rs 134 crore has been collected.
- **Slum Board**: 42,000 houses are being constructed.
- **Ambedkar Housing Scheme (Rural)**:
- Rs 900 crore has been allocated.
- 94,939 houses are under constructed.
- 56,682 houses currently under progress.

BJP spent Rs 15-20 cr to buy VP votes: TMC

767 of 781 MPs cast their vote; 752 were valid votes, while 15 others were invalid

KOLKATA, 10 SEPT

Launching a blistering attack on the BJP after the NDA's emphatic win in the vice-presidential election, Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Wednesday alleged that the saffron camp spent Rs 15-Rs 20 crore per MP to "buy votes" and accused it of using money power to undermine democracy.

Maharashtra Governor and NDA nominee CP Radhakrishnan was elected the 15th Vice President, bagging 452 votes against Opposition nominee and former Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy's 300 votes.

TMC National General Secretary Abhisekh Bannerjee said all 41 MPs from the party voted for Opposition nominee B Sudershan Reddy **PHOTO: PTI**

767 MPs out of 781 cast their votes with a total turnout of 98.2 per cent. While 752 ballots were valid, 15 were invalid, bringing down the required majority of first preference votes to 377.

Banerjee asserted that all 41 TMC MPs - 28 from the Lok Sabha and 13 from the Rajya Sabha - had voted for Reddy.

Banerjee questioned how the NDA's tally overshot projections while the INDIA bloc's count fell short despite Congress leader Jairam Ramesh earlier claiming that 315 MPs had pledged support for Reddy.

State BJP president and Rajya Sabha MP Shamik Bhattacharya dismissed the allegations as "baseless" and said the results reflected Opposition disunity.

The TMC MP also accused the Centre of double standards on the Supreme Court-mandated summary revision of electoral rolls (SIR).

On other contentious issues of citizenship under CAA, Banerjee charged the BJP with weaponising laws for political gain.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Manish Tewari demanded an investigation into allegations of cross-voting.

Party whips are not applicable to Vice Presidential elections having a secret ballot and MPs have to vote according to their conscience. However, most MPs follow the party line .

Most Opposition leaders have denied that their MPs had been a part of the alleged vote-sharing. *—PTI*

> **Vice President-elect CP Radhakrishnan who will also be Rajya Sabha chairperson should accept notices given by Opposition parties and not censor them**
>
>
>
> -Derek O'Brien, TMC MP

Anganwadi workers get lowest pay in Meghalaya

SHILLONG, 10 SEPT

Meghalaya MP Saleng A Sangma has urged the Centre to fix a uniform wage of Rs 24,000 for Anganwadi workers (AWWs) and Rs 18,000 for helpers, and to bring them under labour law protection. He highlighted the challenges faced by staff working across rural and difficult terrains. Meghalaya has 5,895 AWWs and 4,120 helpers, currently paid Rs 11,500 plus a Rs 1,500 state top-up. Across India, AWWs earn Rs 8,000–15,000 and helpers Rs 4,500–8,500. Sangma called for timely digital payments, career pathways, training, and special provisions for hilly areas, including hardship allowances and health support. He cited Gujarat High Court rulings and Assam protests as evidence of reforms. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

SP leader Azam gets bail in 'forced eviction' case

PRAYAGRAJ, 10 SEPT

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday, 10 September, 2025 granted bail to Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan in a case over the alleged forceful eviction of Rampur's Dungarpur colony residents. Justice Sameer Jain allowed Khan's appeal against a 10-year sentence imposed by the MP/MLA court. Contractor Barkat Ali, sentenced to seven years in the same case, has also appealed. The case follows a complaint filed in August 2019 by Abrar, who alleged that in December 2016, the SP laeder, retired police officer Ale Hasan Khan, and Ali assaulted him, threatened his life, and demolished his house. Residents filed 12 cases against him citing robbery, theft, and assault. *—Agencies*

India condemns violation of Qatar's sovereignty: PM

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani on Wednesday and conveyed his condemnation of the violation of the sovereignty of the "brotherly State of Qatar". Israel had on Tuesday launched attacks on Hamas leaders in Qatar's capital Doha. Modi said on X, "Spoke with Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani and expressed deep concern at the attacks in Doha. India condemns the violation of the sovereignty of the brotherly State of Qatar." "We support resolution of issues through dialogue and diplomacy, and avoiding escalation. India stands firmly in support of peace and stability in the region, and against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," he said. *—PTI*

PM Modi to meet Mauritius PM in Varanasi

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam in Varanasi on Thursday during Ramgoolam's state visit to India. The meeting underscores the longstanding civilisational, spiritual, and people-to-people ties between the two nations. Modi will subsequently visit Dehradun to survey flood-affected areas in Uttarakhand and chair a high-level review with officials. Ramgoolam, who arrived in Mumbai on Tuesday, will stay in India until 16 September. The leaders will review bilateral cooperation, focusing on development partnerships, capacity building, and sectors including health, education, energy, infrastructure, energy, digital public infrastructure, and the blue economy. The visit builds on Modi's Mauritius trip that upgraded relations to strategic partnership." *—PTI*

Balance needed in Bihar seat deal: Cong

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Amid seat-sharing talks among Mahagathbandhan allies in Bihar, the Congress on Wednesday said a balance has to be maintained between seats which are "good" and "bad" in terms of winnability while allocating constituencies to parties, and all existing constituents of the alliance must contribute from their "kitty" to accommodate new partners.

The assertion comes amid talks for including the Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Pashupati Kumar Paras' Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP) in the 'Mahagathbandhan' (Grand Alliance) of the opposition parties for the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls.

Addressing a joint press conference along with Bihar Congress chief Rajesh Ram and Congress Legislature Party Leader Shakeel Ahmad Khan,

Krishna Allavaru **PHOTO: ANI**

AICC in-charge of state Krishna Allavaru attacked the BJP, accusing it of indulging in "vote chori" in collusion with the Election Commission.

In addition, "tampering was being done in the electoral roll, the truth of which has been laid bare before the entire country", he claimed.

He also alleged rigging on the day of polling and counting. 'Vote chori' is an issue for every single person and those who are 'vote thieves' do not care about serving the public.

"If the situation in Bihar is to change, the government must be changed," he said. *—PTI*

Court reserves order on Sonia's name in electoral roll

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

- Gandhi's name was included in the electoral roll as a voter of the New Delhi constituency in 1980, which was deleted in 1982, and re-entered in 1983.

A Delhi court on Wednesday reserved its order on a plea seeking action against Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, alleging her name was included in the electoral rolls three years before she became an Indian citizen.

The counsel for the complainant, Vikas Tripath said that in January 1980 Gandhi's name was added as a voter of New Delhi constituency when she was not an Indian citizen.

In 1980, the proof of residence was probably a ration card and a passport.

On September 4, Narang said Gandhi's name was included in the electoral roll as a voter of the New Delhi constituency in 1980, which was deleted in 1982, and again re-entered in 1983 after she acquired Indian citizenship

The plea sought directions to the police for investigation into the allegation. He claimed some forgery. *—PTI*

A VISIT TOO LATE?

Manipur BJP MLAs meet Patra ahead of PM's visit

IMPHAL, 10 SEPT

At least 27 BJP MLAs held a closed-door meeting at the party's state headquarters on Wednesday to deliberate on preparations ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to Manipur.

The meeting, which lasted nearly an hour, was attended by several senior legislators, including former chief minister N. Biren Singh and Assembly Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata.

All the legislators declined to respond to media queries on the meeting's agenda.

BJP Manipur in a post on X said, "State President Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi presided over a joint organisational meeting of the Party's MP, MLAs, and State office bearers, in the presence of Hon'ble MP and NE States Prabhari Sambit Patra ji, and Hon'ble MP and State Prabhari Ajeet Gopchade."

A BJP functionary told PTI, "The gathering focused on key issues, including the party's strategy in the state as well as other significant political developments. It also discussed the preparations and implications of Modi's likely visit to the state."

The Coordination Committee (CORCOM) — an umbrella group of six banned militant outfits including the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) announced a boycott of the PM's visit. *—PTI*

A meeting between Uddav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray and their party-leaders took place in Mumbai **PHOTO: PTI**

Uddhav, Raj meet for 2nd time amid alliance buzz

MUMBAI, 10 SEPT

- Although Raj quit the undivided Shiv Sena in 2005, blaming Uddhav for his exit, the drubbing of their parties in the 2024 assembly polls appears to have pushed the rivals to improve ties. Both parties want to forge an alliance before the polls.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday visited his cousin and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray here amid the buzz of an alliance between the two parties.

A meeting between the two party chiefs and their leaders was held at 'Shivtirth', the residence of Raj Thackeray located in the city.

The two had shared a stage in Mumbai to celebrate their "victory" after the Maharashtra government rolled back its contentious orders on three-language formula for students of Classes 1 to 5.

Although Raj quit the undivided Shiv Sena in 2005, blaming Uddhav for his exit, the drubbing of their parties in the 2024 assembly polls appears to have pushed the rivals to improve ties.

Both parties want to forge an alliance for the upcoming local body polls, including elections to the cash-rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), but have not yet announced a formal tie-up. If it happens, the BJP will be its main adversary.

BJP's Mumbai unit chief and MLA Ameet Satam said citizens are more concerned about development in the state rather than family meetings between political leaders.

Sena (UBT), Congress and Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) are partners in the Opposition bloc MVA. *—PTI*

Uttarakhand ups vigil in border areas amid Nepal unrest

DEHRADUN, 10 SEPT

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has called for intensified security along the state's border with Nepal following political unrest in the neighbouring country. Chairing a high-level video conference, Dhami directed authorities to monitor suspicious activities, track social media for rumours or provocative content, and ensure close coordination between district administrations, police, the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and central security agencies. He also urged community participation, regular surveillance of border entry points, and deployment of additional forces where necessary.

The unrest in Nepal has already affected Uttar Pradesh's border districts. Markets are unusually quiet, travel plans have been cancelled, and tourism and medical travel have collapsed in Bahraich, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur and Lakhimpur Kheri. The protests, initially led by students against a social media ban, escalated into widespread anger at Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's government over alleged corruption. Following 19 deaths and attacks on government buildings, Oli resigned. Authorities in both states remain alert to prevent any spillover of violence. *—Agencies*

Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned in the face of the spiralling anti-government protests **PHOTO: PTI**

Andhra CM calls 'Super Six' poll promises super hit

ANANTAPUR, 10 SEPT

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday claimed the previous YSRCP government raised Rs 10 lakh crore in debt, while the current TDP-led NDA government attracted investments worth the same amount. Speaking at a 'Super Six Super Hit' meeting, he criticised YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration for unemployment, drugs, and restlessness, daring him to debate in the Assembly.

Naidu outlined his government's achievements, including depositing Rs 3,173 crore in farmers' accounts under the 'Annadatha Sukhibhava' scheme, providing free bus services to five crore women saving Rs 200 crore, and distributing 2.45 crore LPG cylinders under the 'Deepam 2.0' scheme. He said the government is fulfilling its "Super Six" poll promises, which include support for farmers, women, and schoolchildren.

Defending plans to develop ten new medical colleges under PPP, Naidu rejected corruption allegations, while highlighting irrigation projects that revived Rayalaseema. He pledged defence, aerospace, and green energy investments for the region. *—PTI*

T'gana's Devji is CPI(Maoist) Chief

HYDERABAD, 10 SEPT

Top Maoist commander Thippiri Tirupati alias Devji from Telangana has been appointed as the new general secretary of the banned CPI (Maoist) party.

The elevation of Devji follows the death of the previous general secretary, Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju, who was killed by security forces in Chhattisgarh.

The decision to appoint Devji, in his 60s, as the new general secretary of the outfit was taken at a recent meeting in Bastar.

Devji, who hails from Jagtial district of Telangana, is a key strategist of the outfit.

Devji, carrying Rs 1 crore on his head, created the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), and went on to become a key Central Committee member of the CPI (Maoist) and the politburo member of the Maoist party.

He plotted several Maoist attacks and played a key role in the 2010 Dantewada ambush that killed 74 CRPF personnel. *—PTI*

NO DISCUSSION WITH CENTRE

Wangchuk to fast for Ladakh's statehood

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

- Wangchuk, a climate activist, educator and Ramon Magsaysay awardee, said they took the decision to go on another fast from Wednesday as no meeting has been called by the Union home ministry with them over their demands in the last two months.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and the Leh Apex Body on Wednesday announced that they are starting a 35-day fast in Leh over their demands for Ladakh's inclusion under the Constitution's sixth schedule and statehood.

Wangchuk, a climate activist, educator and Ramon Magsaysay awardee, said they took the decision to go on another fast from Wednesday as no meeting has been called by the Union home ministry with them over their demands in the last two months.

Wangchuk said they are being forced to intensify the movement demanding statehood and protection under the sixth schedule of the Constitution for Ladakh as the Centre has not addressed their demands.

The talks with the Union government stopped around two months ago.

Wangchuk said the Hill Council elections in Leh are to be held soon and reminded the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre of its promise during the last hill council polls for giving sixth-schedule status to Ladakh.

"The promise should be fulfilled before the upcoming polls," he said.

Wangchuk also said the fast would be for 35 days and Gandhi Jayanti (October 2) would be a "landmark" in their protest.

"The Leh Apex Body held an all-faith prayer service to give the message that our protest is peaceful, non-violent, and our demands are within the ambit of the Indian Constitution," he said. *—PTI*

Crypto, guns among assets declared by Union ministers

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Cryptocurrency, decades-old two-wheelers, gold jewellery, mutual funds and agricultural land are among the assets declared by the members of the Council of Union Ministers for the year 2024-25.

According to the disclosures published on the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) website, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Chaudhary reported crypto investments valued at Rs 21.31 lakh as in March 2025. His wife, Charu Singh, disclosed digital-asset holdings worth Rs 22.41 lakh.

Chaudhary is the only minister to have declared crypto among digital assets.

While traditional investments like land, shares or deposits operate under strict regulations, cryptocurrency in India continues to exist in a regulatory grey zone.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman declared a two-wheeler, besides jewellery worth more than Rs 27 lakh and mutual fund investments of over Rs 19 lakh. 40 regional political parties declared a combined income of Rs 2,532.09 crore in 2023-24. *—PTI*

Nails on Samruddhi Expressway puncture tyres

C'SAMBHAJINAGARR, 10 SEPT

Tyres of at least three cars were punctured early Wednesday after nails were hammered into the Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district, police said. The sharp objects were found on a 10–20 feet stretch of the Mumbai-bound carriageway near Daulatabad, with videos of the nails going viral on social media. Motorists alerted police around 1am. "We are yet to confirm the total number of nails, but three cars were affected," said a Daulatabad police official. MSRDC officials visited the site and will issue a statement. Police have contacted the road contractor and individuals who stopped motorists to investigate. Drivers reported long delays, with some families forced to continue their journey separately. *—PTI*

Kolkata gangrape: 1 arrested, 1 absconding

KOLKATA, 10 SEPT

One of two prime suspects in the alleged gang rape of a woman in Kolkata's Haridevpur area was arrested on Wednesday at Bardhaman railway station while trying to flee, police said. The search for the second accused is ongoing. The victim filed a complaint alleging she was raped at a birthday party on Friday night. Initial investigations revealed she had met the arrested suspect through a mutual friend. He posed as a key member of a major Durga Puja committee and, along with another man named Deep, promised her involvement with the committee. They allegedly took her to a flat in Regent Park and raped her. The arrested man is being questioned to locate the second suspect. *—PTI*

Delhi, J'khand police nab 2 ISIS operatives

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Delhi Police's Special Cell, the Jharkhand Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and Ranchi police have arrested two suspected ISIS operatives in a coordinated multi-state operation, officials said on Wednesday. The prime accused, Ashar Danish, a Bokaro native, was arrested in Ranchi. He was wanted in a Delhi Police Special Cell case linked to an ISIS module. Another suspect, Aftab, was apprehended in Delhi during the simultaneous operation. A source said five to six others have been detained from different states, with investigations ongoing. Preliminary findings suggest the arrested men were in contact with a terror network and involved in activities supporting ISIS's agenda in India. Interrogations are continuing at multiple locations, including a hostel in Ranchi. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Chargesheet filed in self-immolation case in Odisha

BALASORE, 10 SEPT

The Odisha Police filed a chargesheet against the accused persons over the death by self-immolation of a 20-year-old female student of Balasore's FM (Autonomous) College. The state police's Crime Against Women and Children Wing submitted a 504-page chargesheet, containing statements of 120 witnesses, at the court of sub-divisional judicial magistrate, Balasore on 9 September. The female student on 12 July self-immolated, demanding justice over alleged sexual harassment by the head of the department. She died at AIIMS in Bhubaneswar. Assistant professor Samira Kumar Sahoo and principal, Dillip Ghose were arrested for abetting sucide. *—PTI*

Panel asks govt to define 'fake news', mulls on fines

The report will be presented in next Parliamentary session

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

The parliamentary committee unanimously adopted the report ***PHOTO: PTI***

A parliamentary committee has called fake news a "serious threat" to public order and democratic process, and recommended amending penal provisions, increasing fine and fixing accountability to deal with the issue.

In its draft report, the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology also called for mandatory presence of fact-checking mechanism and internal ombudsman in all print, digital and electronic media organisations.

The committee headed by BJP MP **Nishikant Dubey** unanimously adopted the report, addressed to the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry.

The report likely to be presented in Parliament during the next session.

The committee underlined the need for amending penal provisions in existing Acts and rules. This should involve and emerge from a consensus-building exercise among media bodies and relevant stake-holders.

The amount of fine against fake news can be increased to make it deterrent for their creators and publishers.

The panel asked the ministry to define fake news by incorporating suitable clauses in the current regulatory mechanism.

The committee recommended inter-ministerial collaboration at national level and multi-lateral cooperation with international bodies.

Advocating close coordination between different ministries to develop concrete legal and technological solutions for identifying and prosecuting individuals and entities responsible for disseminating AI-generated fake news, the committee said AI tools should be leveraged with human oversight to do so.

A grievance redressal framework should be formed and digital tracking system of the grievances should be implemented.

The Committee asked the Ministry to consider, during their consultation with stake-holders, a comprehensive media literacy curriculum which can be designed for the educational journey of a students.

Stakeholders raised concern over the "safe harbour" clause under Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000, exempting digital platforms from liability from any third-party content subject to certain safeguard. *—PTI*

IN NEED OF MORE

Centre's Rs 1,600 cr aid for Punjab meagre: Fin Minister

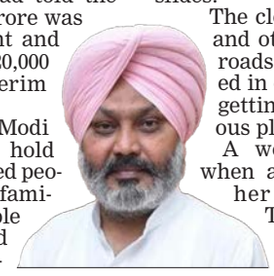
CHANDIGARH, 10 SEPT

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Wednesday called the financial assistance of Rs 1,600 crore announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the flood-hit state "miserably meagre".

Besides the Rs 1,600 crore aid, an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the seriously injured will also be given.

Modi conducted an aerial survey of the flood-hit areas in Punjab.

Cabinet minister Hardeep Singh Mundian had told the PM that Rs 1,600 crore was a "meagre" amount and had demanded Rs 20,000 crore as an interim relief for the state.



He alleged that Modi did not bother to hold hands of the affected people who lost their family members, people whose crops and houses were damaged to a great extent.

The finance minister alleged the PM "ignored" Punjab's elected government and "preferred" to meet the "BJP people" in Gurdaspur.

Meanwhile, the Jammu-Srinagar national highway was reopened for vehicular traffic on Wednesday, after remaining closed for nine days.

The highway that is the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, had remained closed since August 26 due to multiple blockages caused by heavy rains, flash floods and landslides.

The closure of highways and other inter-regional roads to Kashmir resulted in over 4,000 vehicles getting stranded at various places of the state.

A woman was killed when a landslide struck her house at Thangshing village in Sikkim's Gyalshing. *—PTI*

Sunjay Kapur and his wife Priya Kapur ***PHOTO: INSTAGRAM***

Sunjay Kapur's kids received Rs 1,900 cr: Priya Kapur

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Karisma Kapur ***PHOTO: INSTAGRAM***

Priya Kapur, wife of late businessman Sunjay Kapur told the Delhi High Court on Wednesday that Samaira Kapur, and Kiaan Raj Kapur, his two children with former wife Karishama Kapoor had already received Rs 1,900 crore from the family trust

The high court directed Priya to disclose all movable and immovable assets belonging to him as of 12 June, the day of his death.

The court was hearing a plaint filed by Sunjay's two children with Karisma, challenging his purported will and seeking shares in the assets reportedly worth Rs 30,000 crore.

Priya's counsel submitted though the will was not registered, it wasn't "invalid".

The court posted the matter for 9 October.

Sunjay's mother, Rani Kapur, has also challenged the will, saying there was nothing left to her while calling the entire process "unholy". Rs 10,000 crore worth of assets should belong to her.

The plaintiffs allege that the will was forged by Priya to gain control over the assets.

Neither Sunjay or Priya or any other person, ever mentioned about the will's existence.

Sunjay passed away on June 12 during a polo match in London, when he suffered a heart attack after reportedly swallowing a bee.

Rani recently wrote to the UK authorities demanding an investigation into her son's death. *—PTI*

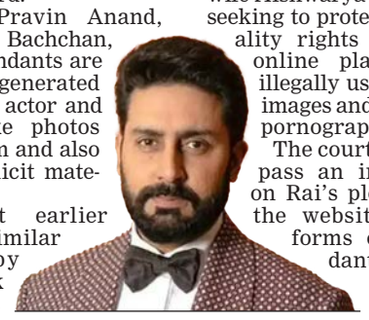
Abhishek Bachchan moves HC to protect publicity rights

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan on Wednesday urged the Delhi High Court to protect his publicity and personality rights, and to restrain websites and platforms from using his image, likeness, persona and fake videos, including sexually explicit material.

Justice Tejas Karia asked the counsel for Bachchan to answer the queries raised by the court and said the matter would be heard.

Advocate Pravin Anand, representing Bachchan, said the defendants are creating AI-generated videos of the actor and creating fake photos signed by him and also sexually explicit material.



The court earlier heard a similar plea by Abhishek Bachchan's wife Aishwarya Rai Bachchan seeking to protect her personality rights and restrain online platforms from illegally using her name, images and AI-generated pornographic content.

The court said it would pass an interim order on Rai's plea injuncting the websites and platforms of the defendant. *—PTI/ Agencies*

'Chandramukhi' makers are suing Nayanthara over Netflix docu

BENGALURU, 10 SEPT

Tamil actress Nayanthara has landed in fresh trouble over the use of another clip in her Netflix documentary 'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairy Tal, which was released in November 2024.

The Madras High Court asked Tarc Studios, makers of the documentary, to file a response regarding the alleged unauthorised use of clips from the hit Tamil movie 'Chandramukhi'.

Dhanush's Wunderbar Films also sought damages of Rs 1 crore from Tarc Studios for using a few scenes from his film 'Naanum Rowdy Dhaan' without his consent.

The petitioner, AB International, argued that despite serving a legal notice and claiming Rs 5 crore in damages, the documentary continues to use unauthorized clips.

The petition also requested the court to release an order restraining Tarc Studios from using Chandramukhi footage and direct the makers to submit accounts of profits earned through the film's streaming.

The court asked allowed Tarc Studios to reply by 6 October. *—Agencies*

Rapper Vedan arrested in rape case

KOCHI, 10 SEPT

Rapper Hirandas Murali, known as Vedan, was arrested on Wednesday after interrogation in connection with a rape case.

However, he is expected to be released soon, as the Kerala High Court granted anticipatory bail to him in the case.

The rapper was asked to appear before the investigation officials on 9 September and Wednesday.

He was questioned by the police for a few hours on Tuesday as well, the officer added.

The Kerala High Court, on 27 August, granted the anticipatory bail to the rapper, who was accused by a lady doctor of entering into a sexual relationship with her on the promise of marriage and later going back on his promise.

She has also accused him of sexually harassing her multiple times between 2021 and 2023. *—PTI*

No new affidavit filed: TDB on women's entry into Sabarimala

PATHANAMTHITTA, 10 SEPT

Travancore Devaswom Board President PS Prasanth on Wednesday said the board's last affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court in 2016 sought to protect the traditional rituals and customs related to the entry of young women to the Sabarimala temple.

No new affidavit has been submitted since then, and there is no relevance for a fresh one, he told reporters here.

Prasanth was responding to a question about whether the TDB would change its position in the apex court.

The TDB President said in the past four to five years, all rituals and customs have been strictly followed at the Sabarimala temple, without any deviations.

In 2018, the Supreme Court lifted the ban on women of menstruating age entering the temple, ruling the restriction "unconstitutional".

This triggered protests and remains under review by a larger bench, which is yet to decide on the issue. *—PTI*

HC grants bail to accused in Pune blast

MUMBAI, 10 SEPT

The Bombay High Court has granted bail to an accused in the 2012 Pune blasts case, citing long incarceration and delay in the trial.

Farooq Bagwan, the applicant, has been in jail for more than 12 years and the possibility of the trial completing in the near future is remote, the court said. He a did not have any prior criminal record

Only 27 out of 170 witnesses have been examined by the trial court.The bench granted bail to Bagwan on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh.

Five low-intensity blasts took place in Pune on 1 August, 2012, injuring one person.

Bagwan along with eight others were arrested for the alleged inviolvement.

- Farooq Bagwan, the applicant, has been in jail for more than 12 years and the possibility of the trial completing in the near future is remote, the court said.

Bagwan had prepared forged documents to procure SIM cards for mobile phones used by the co-accused, and the conspiracy was hatched in his shop premises. *—PTI*

No 'Conjuring' spoilers pls, says man; gets beaten

PUNE, 10 SEPT

A 29-year-old software professional was allegedly assaulted inside a film theatre in Pimpri Chinchwad in Maharashtra's Pune here after he objected to a man narrating the storyline of the horror film 'The Conjuring- Last Rites' to his wife, the police have said.

The incident took place last week at a multiplex when the complainant had gone to watch the movie with his wife.

The accused, who was seated in the back row with his wife, kept narrating the story aloud to her, an official said.

When the complainant asked him to stop and not to spoil the suspense and disturb others, the accused allegedly abused and attacked him and his wife.

The police registered a case against the accused. *—PTI*

BABY SAFE

Mom with postnatal psychosis puts baby in fridge

MORADABAD, 10 SEPT

A woman suffering from postpartum psychosis allegedly placed her 15-day-old baby inside a refrigerator in Karula area of Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad.

The incident took place on 5 September when the woman, 23 who had recently given birth to a baby boy, reportedly put the infant in the refrigerator and went to sleep.

Hearing the baby's cries, the grandmother rushed to the kitchen, found the child inside the refrigerator and rescued him. The baby was immediately taken to a doctor who confirmed that he was stable, family members said.

Initially the famillt though that the woman was under the influence of "evil forces" and they attempted traditional rituals to get her rid of them.

When her condition did not improve, she was taken to Archna Raj Psychiatry and De-Addiction Centre, where psychiatrist Kartikeya Gupta diagnosed her with postpartum psychosis.

She is now undergoing counselling and treatment, a doctor said.

Postpartum psychosis is a serious and rare mental health emergency that occurs after childbirth. The affected person might experience symptoms like hallucinations, delusions, and confusion.

Postpartum depression and psychosis occur when women are neglected after childbirth and do not receive adequate emotional support. This can cause severe mood swings and in extreme cases, abnormal behaviour. *—PTI*

Court acquits man accused of kissing minor girl

THANE, 10 SEPT

A special court in Maharashtra's Thane has acquitted a man in a case of molesting a three-year-old girl by kissing her on her cheek in 2021, saying his gesture cannot be viewed as a criminal act as "any person fond of children may do so out of natural instinct".

In a 22 August order, special judge Ruby U Malvankar, hearing Protection of Children from the Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act cases, acquitted 54-year-old Omprakash Rambachan Giri, who was accused of hugging and kissing the girl on two separate occasions. Unless it hurts the child or is done by a total stranger with a bad intention it is not objectionable or offensive, the court said. *—PTI*

EERIE CALM GRIPS SINGED NEPAL

Flights resume as no fresh violence reported; 7,000 inmates break out; Citizens ordered to stay indoors

People walk warily as Nepal Army personnel patrol the streets of Kathmandu *PHOTO: PTI*

KATHMANDU, 10 SEPT

The streets of Kathmandu wore a deserted look on Wednesday, heavily patrolled by soldiers enforcing curfew orders a day after violent anti-government protests shook Nepal. The unrest, led by Gen Z demonstrators enraged over corruption and a now-lifted social media ban, saw key government buildings, party offices, and politicians' homes set ablaze on Tuesday.

While no fresh violence was reported on Wednesday, the Nepal Army maintained strict security to curb looting and further arson "under the guise of agitation." Citizens were instructed to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary, with only essential services such as ambulances, fire brigades, health workers, and security forces allowed to operate.

7K
inmates escape

Over 1,100 inmates escaped from Dillibazar Jail, 1,200 from Nakkhu, 700 from Chitwan, 1,575 from Sunsari, and several others, according to Home Ministry sources.

In a statement, the Army urged citizens to return any weapons looted during the protests, warning of legal consequences for non-compliance. It also asked civilians not to wear army uniforms, calling it illegal and potentially dangerous during this sensitive time.

The protests resulted in prison riots and large-scale jailbreaks across the country. Over 7,000 inmates reportedly escaped from facilities including Dillibazar (1,100), Nakkhu (1,200), Chitwan (700), Sunsari (1,575), and others, according to Home Ministry sources. Several clashes broke out between inmates and security forces, with five juvenile inmates confirmed dead in one incident.

Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport resumed operations Wednesday evening after a 24-hour shutdown. The airport advised passengers to confirm flight status with their airlines. The Nepal Army also appealed to hotels and tourism operators to assist stranded foreign nationals, offering rescue support through nearby security posts.

Following Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's resignation on Tuesday, prompted by growing public anger and the death of 19 protesters in police action, the country faces a political vacuum. President Ram Chandra Poudel has asked Oli's cabinet to function in a caretaker capacity until a new Council of Ministers is formed. Oli's current whereabouts remain unknown. Political leaders have called for restraint and dialogue. Nepali Congress General Secretaries Gagan Thapa and Bishwa Prakash Sharma expressed willingness to cooperate with the Gen Z movement but stressed that any change must follow constitutional and legal frameworks.

"Lawlessness only leads to further chaos," their joint statement said, urging all sides to avoid a prolonged constitutional vacuum. The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called for an independent investigation into protest-related deaths. *—PTI*

NEPAL PREZ TO MEET 'GEN Z' PROTESTERS, SEEK PEACE

Nepali President Ram Chandra Paudel is expected to meet the protesting citizens on Wednesday to pursue a peaceful resolution to the ongoing Gen Z movement in the country through dialogue. He will be meeting with a delegation of the protesters, along with the Nepalese Army. The call for the talks by President Paudel came on late Tuesday after he accepted the resignation of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli. According to The Himalayan Times, citing an official statement from the President, he called for resolving the crisis without further bloodshed or destruction through dialogue. "I urge all sides to remain calm, prevent further harm to the nation, and come to the table for talks. In a democracy, the demands raised by citizens can be addressed through dialogue and negotiation," the statement read.

Meanwhile, The Nepali National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has urged all concerned parties to contribute to restoring normalcy in the country.

"There can only be democracy as an alternative to democracy," the NHRC said in a statement.

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT NEPALI PM?

The 'Gen-Z' protests have toppled the government and left the Prime Minister's seat empty. Here are the top contenders:

SUSHILA KARKI

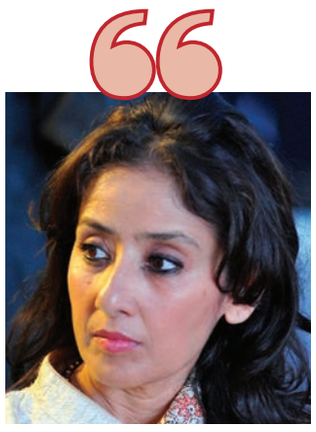
The former chief justice has emerged as one of the most prominent names to take over as the interim-prime minister. The 73-year-old is the only woman to have served as Nepal's Chief Justice, and may become the first woman to serve as Kathmandu's Prime Minister. Protestors want her in take power given her political neutrality and credibility. During her tenure as chief justice, she reinforced the judiciary's role as a guardian of democracy. In 2017, an impeachment motion was submitted against her in Parliament, but was later withdrawn following public pressure.

BALENDRA SHAH

The Kathmandu Mayor has become a force online, with protestors rallying behind him. Popularly known as Balen, Shah is a rapper/DJ in the Nepali music industry. He completed his civil engineering degree from Himalayan Whitehouse International College in Nepal and his MTech in structural engineering from Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) in Karnataka. The 35-year-old is a strong proponent of the Greater-Nepal theory. He did not participate in the Gen-Z protests – citing his age – but voiced his support.

SUDAN GURANG

Sudan Gurung is the President of Hami Nepal, which reportedly assists with post-earthquake rehabilitation and emergency response programs. He turned to activism after the 2015 earthquake claimed his child's life, and his disillusionment with the government's apathy grew. Gurung has since coordinated international funding and secured donations for communities affected by floods, landslides and earthquakes. He had earlier displayed strong pro-monarchy views.



As students rise today against corruption and for freedom, BP BA's words feel timeless: 'Democracy is indivisible if you want democracy at home, you cannot afford to neglect all struggles for it'

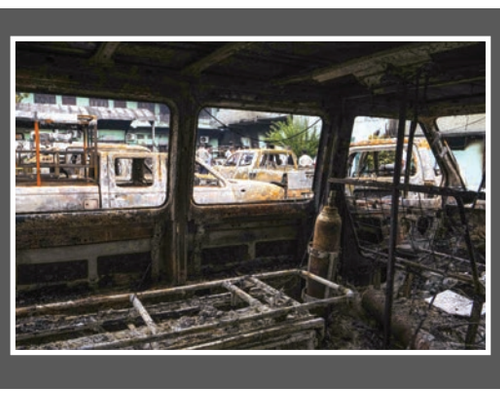
- Manisha Koirala, Actor. She belongs to the Koirala royal family. Her dad Prakash Koirala was a former cabinet minister while her grandfather Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala was the PM in the late 1950s.

The firing by police was wrong. In any democracy, firing should not happen. At most, water cannons or rubber bullets can be used to disperse crowds ...Corruption has been there for a long time

- Yashwant Shah, grandson of former Nepal PM KI Singh

The situation is one of anarchy at the moment. But I understand that Oli has already left the country and the whole government has collapsed. What I'm worried about is the acts like burning of the parliament, and why should anybody be doing that kind of thing?

- Sukh Deo Muni, former Indian diplomat



Birgunj, in Nepal's Parsa district, faced the worst of the recent anti-government protests. Charred buildings and vehicles reveal the extent of the destruction. The residence of Mayor Rajesh Man Singh stands deserted and burned, while a torched ambulance lies abandoned in the street. A government office, with papers scattered on the floor, was also ransacked. The residence of Lalbabu Raut, former CM of Madhesh Province, was similarly attacked during the unrest

Is the monarchy returning?

KATHMANDU, 10 SEPT

A televised address by Nepal Army Chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel appealing for peace on Tuesday has stirred a political storm after a portrait of former king Prithvi Narayan Shah was prominently displayed behind him. While Sigdel's speech appealed for peace and stability following Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's resignation, the visual sparked a flood of speculation over a possible royal comeback.

The portrait wasn't random. Prithvi Narayan Shah, who unified Nepal in the 18th century, holds deep symbolic value, especially within the Army. Yet, amid current instability, the timing and optics led many to interpret it as a powerful message. Social media lit up with claims of a "huge optic signal" and questions like: "Is the monarchy returning?"

Nepal, the world's last Hindu kingdom until 2008, has been governed by a fragile republican system that many now view as dysfunctional. Since the monarchy's abolition after a decade-long Maoist insurgency, Nepal has cycled through 13 governments in just 17 years. Widespread corruption, weak federal governance, and unmet promises have fuelled public discontent.

Nepal Army Chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel spoke to the press with a picture of former king Prithvi Narayan Shah prominently displayed in the background *PHOTO: PTI*

Earlier this year, massive pro-monarchy protests rocked Kathmandu. Organised by the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) and led by businessman Durga Prasai, the rallies drew thousands demanding the return of the king and a Hindu state. Police responded with tear gas, water cannons, and arrests. A protester later died from injuries.

Adding fuel to the fire, former King Gyanendra Shah, deposed in 2008, hinted at returning to politics. His Democracy Day speech in March accused current leaders of failing the nation and called for public support. Days later, he received a hero's welcome in Kathmandu.

Analysts are divided. Some say the current constitution has failed, creating fertile ground for royalist resurgence. Others warn of a dangerous regression.

But one thing is clear: the monarchy question in Nepal is no longer buried. *—Agencies*

What are Nepal's options now? Analyst examines

KATHMANDU, 10 SEPT

Nepal has three options before it: First is within the Constitution; second is "slightly deviating from it" and the third, is by doing away with the Constitution altogether, a top Nepalese political official said.

"To me, the first option doesn't seem likely. Option two, and the more probable one, is to make a slight deviation from the existing framework and set up an interim government while preparing for fresh elections," Ramesh Parajuli, editor and senior researcher with Nepal-based NGO Martin Chautari.

"At the moment, it is difficult to foresee the course Nepal would take," he said.

The current Constitution of Nepal, only 10 years old, established the country as a multi-party democracy, marking a shift from a constitutional monarchy to a federal republic. "It's early to say whether the it worked or not," he added. *—PTI*

CHINA BREAKS SILENCE, ASKS ALL SECTIONS TO 'PROPERLY HANDLE DOMESTIC ISSUES'

China, a close ally of ex-PM KP Sharma Oli, urged all sides in Nepal to resolve domestic issues and restore order. While affirming strong bilateral ties, China did not comment on Oli's resignation. Oli was known for promoting closer ties with Beijing, signing a transit treaty, supporting BRI projects, and backing the China-Nepal railway. His recent China visit drew criticism for attending a parade opposed by key donor Japan.

B'DESHIS ADVISED AGAINST GOING OUT

The Bangladesh Foreign Ministry has advised all nationals in Nepal to remain at their hotels or residences and avoid travel. Inbound flights are also suspended until further notice. Around 100 Bangladeshis, including officials, footballers, and a Defense Services delegation, are stranded in Kathmandu. Biman Bangladesh Airlines has provided contact details for passengers seeking updates, with approximately 500 currently in Nepal.

RUSSIA URGES PEACEFUL RESOLUTION

Russia urged a peaceful resolution of the crisis while advising its citizens to refrain from travelling to the Himalayan nation. Moscow is "closely monitoring the situation which transformed from mass street protests into mass rioting with casualties", the Russian Foreign Ministry said said.

The foreign ministry said according to available information, there are no Russian citizens among the victims.

Air India, IndiGo to operate addl flights to Nepal

KATHMANDU, 10 SEPT

Air India and IndiGo will operate additional flights to Kathmandu to bring back people stranded in the Nepal capital, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said on Wednesday The minister also said that airlines have been advised to keep their fares within reasonable levels.

"Due to airport closure in Nepal, many home-bound passengers were unable to return from Kathmandu.

Air India said it is operating special flights today and tomorrow from Delhi to Kathmandu and back to help passengers who have been stranded due to recent developments in Nepal.

"Our scheduled operations will also resume from tomorrow.

"We thank the government and other agencies for the quick coordination to facilitate this in the interest of our passengers," the airline said on X. *—PTI*

CRIPPLED BY ANXIETY

Nepali students in India worried for families' safety

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Nepali students in India say they have put their plans to travel home on hold and call up their families repeatedly, fearful of their safety amid the violent protests.

The students in India are living in anxiety.

A master's student at Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) said he had cancelled his plans to travel home, which is near Kathmandu, for the Dussehra festival.

"I was looking forward to being with my family, but they have advised me to stay back in Delhi until the situation there stabilises," he said.

Manoj Chaudhary from Nepal's Birgunj, pursuing MBA at IIT-Dhanbad, said the situation in his hometown was calmer compared to the capital. Still, he has suspended his plans to visit home.

Another Delhi University student said her immediate parents and siblings live with her in Delhi, but her grandparents and extended relatives are in Nepal.

A first-year DU student said the reports of deaths and destruction had shaken him. "I never thought students would be killed for raising their voice. It feels like the country is being torn apart."

"I used to ask friends here to visit Nepal for its beauty, but now I feel sad about what is happening," he said, adding that he calls his family every few hours to check on their safety.

A PhD scholar at the South Asian University, who earlier studied at Jawaharlal Nehru University, said the unrest had left her disturbed even though her family lives in a rural area, which is relatively safe.

Another DU student said he had deferred his trip home indefinitely.

India advised its citizens to defer travelling to Nepal until the condition stabilises.

Additionally, Nepalese in Delhi are worried for family safety amid violent protests in Nepal. Udita Khanal, restaurant owner in Khirki Extension, said poor network makes contacting relatives in Kathmandu difficult, with daily essentials scarce. Deb Chhetri, café owner in Majnu ka Tila, fears for his daughters who joined the protests. Restaurant staff is also anxious, unable to return home due to tight security. *—PTI*

Kathmandu's Hilton Hotel, reportedly the city tallest building, was set ablaze on Wednesday

Unable to call families, WB sex workers anxious

Charred remains of a building in Kathmandu on Wednesday *PHOTO: PTI*

Unrest in Nepal has deeply affected Nepalese sex workers in Kolkata's Sonagachi, Asia's largest red-light district, who are now unable to contact their families amid the political turmoil.

With Nepal's airports closed, borders sealed, and communication networks unreliable, many are trapped in uncertainty. One worker from eastern Nepal shared, "I have not spoken to my mother for three days. Every time I try, the phone says the network is down. I don't even know if she is safe." Another broke down, worried about her two sons near Pokhara, saying, "I usually send money every month, but now I don't know if I can. If they don't get money, how will my children eat?" For many families in rural Nepal, these remittances, though small, are a vital lifeline during the crisis. *—PTI*

QUOTE of THE DAY

A more secure world begins by investing at least as much in fighting poverty as we do in fighting wars

—ANTONIO GUTERRES, UN Secretary-General

MILITARY SPENDING HIT RECORD HIGH:

The UN said a fraction of the amount spent on military is needed to end world hunger

Military spending worldwide
$2.7 trillion
in 2024.

$93 million,
less than 4% of the $2.7T, is needed annually to end hunger by 2030.

Poland downs Russian drones over its airspace

NATO countries helped shoot down the 'Shahed' drones

WARSAW, 10 SEPT

Poland said that Russian drones violated its airspace, and that the country and its NATO allies shot down some that posed a direct threat.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk wrote on social media Wednesday: "Last night the Polish airspace was violated by a huge number of Russian drones. Those drones that posed a direct threat were shot down."

This is the first time Poland has taken such action, raising fears of a major provocation for Europe and NATO forces.

"This is an act of aggression that posed a real threat to the safety of our citizens," Poland's Operation Command said on X.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the drones were likely aimed at targets both in Ukrainian and Polish territory. He said that at least two dozen "Shahed" (Iranian-Russian) drones entered Polish airspace at night.

Russia's Defence Ministry said that the strikes targeted Ukraine's military-industrial complex in the western regions of the country, with no planned targets on Polish territory.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte confirmed that several allied countries were involved in shooting down the drones, including the Netherlands, Italy, Poland and Germany.

Poland also called invoked Article 4 of the NATO treaty, which provides for the possibility of joint consultations between NATO allies "whenever.... the territorial integrity, political independence or security... is threatened".

"We always have to make sure that we are one step ahead, but I think [that] last night showed that we are able to defend every inch of NATO territory, including, of course its airspace."

Russian drones injured three people in Ukraine's western Khmelnytskyi region while one person was killed and one injured in the Zhytomyr region overnight.

Ukraine is also anxious about joint military drills involving Russian and Belarusian troops, which are due to start in Belarus starting Friday and will last until 16 September.

Interestingly, Russian diplomat, Andrei Ordash claimed that the drones came from Ukraine, Russian state news media RIA said. —*Agencies*

Russia's overnight drone attack - many of which flew over Poland - hit Ukraine and killed at least one person. Poland has invoked Article 4 of the NATO treaty, claiming its sovereignty or territorial integrity is under threat
PHOTO X @ZELENSKYYUA

At least 2
Russian drones that entered Polish territory used Belarusian airspace

A Shahed drone flying over Poland ***PHOTO: X***

I have no reason to claim we're on the brink of war, but a line has been crossed, and it's incomparably more dangerous than before. This situation brings us the closest we have been to open conflict since World War Two.

—Donald Tusk, Poland Prime Minister

(This is) an extremely dangerous precedent for Europe.... The Russians must feel the consequences. A strong response is needed – and it can only be a joint by all partners: Ukraine, Poland, all Europeans and the US.

—Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine President

'WARNED AFTER ATTACK'

US says it warned Qatar about Israel, Doha denies it

DOHA/WASHINGTON, 10 SEPT

The US has said it warned Qatar before the Israel struck Doha, in an attempt to eliminate Hamas leadership. Qatar, however, disputes that, with Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, saying that "the Americans sent a message 10 minutes after the attacks took place".

Qatar was still digging through the rubble of Israel's Tuesday's bombing, which Jerusalem said killed top Hamas leaders.

Hamas said that its top leaders survived the strike but that five lower-level members were killed, including the son of Khalil al-Hayya — Hamas' leader for Gaza and its top negotiator — as well as three bodyguards and the head of al-Hayya's office.

Reports said that they were in Doha to negotiate a ceasefire deal for the Gaza conflict.

Qatar's local media hewed tightly to government statements issued after Tuesday's attack, which killed at least six people in a Doha neighbourhood that is home to foreign embassies and schools.

TRUMP NOT THRILLED

US President Donald Trump said he was "not thrilled" about the Israeli strike in Doha, stressing that the situation was "not good" but reiterated that the US priority remained the return of hostages.

Speaking to reporters, Trump said, "I am not thrilled about it... Not a good situation, but I will say that we want the hostages back. We are not thrilled about the way that went down. I am never surprised by anything, especially when it comes to the Middle East."

The White House earlier maintained that eliminating Hamas remained a "worthy goal".

"Unilaterally bombing inside Qatar, a sovereign nation and close ally of the United States.... does not advance Israel or America's goals.

However, eliminating Hamas, which has profited from the misery of those living in Gaza, is a worthy goal," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

HOSTAGE'S FAMILY CONDEMN STRIKE

Meanwhile, the Families' Headquarters for the Return of the Abductees expressed "great fear" for the price hostages may pay.

"We know from the survivors of captivity who have returned that the revenge directed against the abductees is cruel. The chance of their return is now more uncertain than ever," the Families' Headquarters said. "It is time to end the war."

The families demanded that the Israel presents "a structured plan". —*Agencies*

Israel's strikes on Doha, in Qatar
PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

Iran, nuclear watchdog restart cooperation

CAIRO, 10 SEPT

Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency signed an agreement Tuesday in Cairo to pave the way for resuming cooperation, including on ways of relaunching inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities. The announcement followed a meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, his Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty and International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi. . Grossi said the document "provides for a clear understanding for the procedures of inspection notifications and their implementation". Araghchi had warned that "any hostile act" against Iran, including sanctions, would effectively terminate the treaty. —*PTI*

UAE magnate unveils plans for Syria investments

DAMASCUS, 10 SEPT

Emirati magnate Khalaf al-Habtoor plans to invest in Syria as it struggles to recover from nearly 14 years of civil war. The chairman of UAE-based Al Habtoor Group led a business delegation to assess projects in Damascus and the coastal region. He said he intends to launch a bus network of up to 3,000 vehicles in partnership with the Syrian state, creating about 30,000 jobs. Al-Habtoor also aims to open large car showrooms to provide further employment for young Syrians. Gulf States have shown growing interest in Syria's reconstruction since the ousting of former president Bashar Assad last December, but progress remains slow. —*PTI*

Greta's flotilla attacked again near Tunisia

TUNIS , 10 SEPT

An international activist flotilla seeking to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza said Wednesday it was attacked for the second night in a row. The Global Sumud Flotilla said that one of its boats, the British-flagged "Alma," was attacked by a drone as it was docked in Tunisian waters. No one was harmed. Projectiles on fire reportedly fell on the deck, exploding and setting off a blaze. The attack appeared similar to the one the night before on the Portuguese-flagged "Family" vessel. Tunisian authorities denied on Tuesday claims that the first attack had been caused by drones. There was no immediate reaction to the second attack. Several prominent activists, such as Greta Thunberg are aboard the flotillas, which aim to break Israel's aid blockade in Gaza. —*PTI*

250 arrested in France as protesters clash with police

PARIS, 10 SEPT

Protesters blocked roads, lit blazes and were met with volleys of tear gas on Wednesday in Paris and elsewhere in France, heaping pressure on President Emmanuel Macron by attempting to give his new Prime Minister a baptism of fire.

The government's Interior Ministry announced 250 arrests in the first hours of what was a planned day of nationwide demonstrations against Macron, budget cuts and other complaints. Macron was installing a new Prime Minister, Sébastien Lecornu, on Tuesday.

Although falling short of its self-declared intention to "Block Everything," the protest movement that started online over the summer caused widespread hot spots of disruption, defying an exceptional deployment of 80,000 police who broke up barricades and swiftly made arrests.

Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said that a bus was set on fire in the western city of Rennes. In the southwest, fire damage to electrical cables stopped train services on one line and disrupted traffic on another, government transport authorities said.

"Block Everything" grew with no clearly identified leadership and a broad array of complaints — many targeting budget cuts, broader inequality and Macron himself.

Macron's governments have been on particularly shaky ground since he dissolved the National Assembly last year, triggering an unscheduled legislative election that stacked the lower house of parliament with opponents of the French president. —*PTI*

French police fire tear gas grenades at protesters during a gathering of the 'Block Everything' movement in Marseille, south of France ***PHOTO PTI***

COURT BLOCKS TRUMP'S ATTEMPT TO SACK FED GUV

WASHINGTON, 10 SEPT

A US federal judge has ruled that Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook may remain in her post while she challenges President Donald Trump's attempt to remove her. The decision delivers a major setback to the administration's efforts to tighten control over the traditionally independent central bank.

US District Judge Jia Cobb on Tuesday granted Cook a preliminary injunction, saying she was likely to succeed in her lawsuit. Trump announced on 25 August that he was sacking Cook over allegations of mortgage fraud linked to two properties she bought in 2021, before she joined the Fed. Cobb ruled the claims did not amount to legal "cause" for dismissal under the statute governing the Board.

Cook, the first Black woman to serve as a Fed governor, said she would continue performing her duties. —*PTI*

EU Prez calls for sanctions against Israel over Gaza famine

STRASBOURG, 10 SEPT

The European Commission President said she would seek sanctions and a partial trade suspension against Israel over its genocide in Gaza, an announcement that marked a sharp turnaround for **Ursula von der Leyen**, a longtime supporter of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

On Wednesday, Von der Leyen added that the commission "will set up a Palestine donor group next month," part of which will focus on Gaza's future reconstruction.

"Man-made famine can never be a weapon of war. For the sake of the children, for the sake of humanity. This must stop," she said.

Von der Leyen also said she plans to freeze support to Israel given by the EU's executive branch, which would not require the approval of the 27-member bloc . —*PTI*

People scramble to safety in Indonesia ***PHOTO: ANTARA***

Flash floods in Indonesia leave at least 11 dead

DENPASAR, 10 SEPT

Indonesian rescuers recovered the bodies of at least 11 people while 13 people were missing on Wednesday after flash floods struck two provinces of the island nation, authorities said.

Torrential rains beginning Monday caused flooding and landslides in East Nusa Tenggara province and on the tourist island of Bali.

Three members of a family were found dead after their house was swept away, and five people were missing on Wednesday in the Nagekeo district of East Nusa Tenggara.

Rain has caused rivers to burst their banks, tearing through nine cities and districts in Bali. Mud, rocks and trees tumbled onto the mountainside hamlets and rising rivers submerged at least 112 neighbourhoods, resulting in several landslides, Bali's Disaster Mitigation Agency said.

Four people were in a building that collapsed and was swept away in the Kumbasari market area of South Denpasar, said Nyoman Sidakarya, the head of Bali's Search and Rescue Agency.

Videos showed cars floating in muddy waters while soldiers and rescuers in rubber boats helped children and older people who were on roofs of flooded homes. —PTI

Baloch shuts down amid massive arrests

BALOCHISTAN, 10 SEPT

A province-wide shut down and wheel-jam strike paralysed Balochistan on Tuesday following a call by the All Parties coalition, bringing cities and highways from Zhob to Gwadar to a standstill, according to The Balochistan Post.

Security forces launched a sweeping crackdown, arresting numerous political leaders and activists in Quetta and other districts. In Quetta alone, more than 100 demonstrators were detained from Sariab, Airport Road, Brewery, Bypass and central areas. Those arrested included senior figures from the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Balochistan National Party (BNP), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Awami National Party (ANP), National Party (NP) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI). Similar arrests occurred in Surab, Mastung, Loralai, Jafarabad, Nasirabad, Duki, Ziarat (Sanjawi), Qalat and Chaman. —*ANI*

MOB MINDSET

Mass hysteria shut Heathrow airport not 'toxic' substance

BATH, 10 SEPT

Heathrow Airport's Terminal 4 was evacuated on 8 September after emergency services responded to reports of "possible hazardous materials". Flights were halted and 21 people were treated on-site by the London Ambulance Service. However, no "adverse substance" was found, and the terminal was soon reopened. Of the 21 people assessed by ambulance staff, all but one were discharged at the scene.

According to the Metropolitan Police, the incident may have been caused by mass hysteria, a psychological phenomenon where groups of people experience real symptoms with no identifiable physical cause. Known variously as mass psychogenic illness or epidemic hysteria, such episodes spread rapidly through social groups and are often triggered by stress or anxiety.

History offers many examples. In 1962, dozens of textile workers in South Carolina fell ill with rashes and nausea, initially thought to be caused by insect bites. No physical cause was found, and sociologists later attributed the outbreak to psychological factors.

Staff handed out water and emergency foil blankets as passengers were stuck outside the airport for three hours ***PHOTO: X***

Another infamous case is the "dancing plague" of 1518 in Strasbourg, where hundreds danced uncontrollably for weeks, some to death, in what's now believed to be a mass psychogenic event.

These events often follow a positive feedback loop, a self-reinforcing cycle where a single trigger causes others to react, amplifying the effect, much like a snowball gaining size and speed downhill. In Heathrow's case, police believe one person fell ill, setting off a chain reaction.

Social contagion isn't limited to illness. Emotions and behaviours — violence, generosity, even obesity — can spread similarly. Just because an illness is spread by an idea or emotion, rather than a virus or bacterium, it doesn't make that illness any less real affected people.

The Covid pandemic starkly illustrated how ideas, like misinformation about vaccines, can go viral and cause real harm. —*PTI*

Gold rises Rs 250 to hit fresh peak of Rs 1.13L/10g

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Gold prices climbed Rs 250 to scale yet another peak of Rs 1,13,000 per 10g in the national capital on Wednesday, buoyed by robust buying by central banks globally, a weak dollar, and lingering geopolitical uncertainties. So far this year, the precious metal prices have added Rs 34,050 or 43.12 per cent, surging from Rs 78,950 per 10g on December 31, 2024. On Wednesday gold of 99.5 per cent purity also appreciated by Rs 250 to hit a lifetime high of Rs 1,12,500 per 10g (inclusive of all taxes). Meanwhile, silver prices retreated from record levels, declining by Rs 300 to Rs 1,28,500 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Wednesday. In the previous session, the white metal had settled at Rs 1,28,800 per kg, as per the Association. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Rupee recovers to close at 88.11 against USD

MUMBAI, 10 SEPT

The rupee recovered slightly from its record low level and ended with a gain of 4 paise at 88.11 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday aided by strong foreign fund inflows and a weaker greenback. Hopes of a breakthrough in India-US trade talks and positive sentiments in domestic equity markets supported the local unit while rise in crude oil prices capped gains, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.14 against the US dollar and traded in a narrow range of 88.06-88.19 before settling at 88.11 (provisional), up 4 paise from its previous close. The rupee had pared initial gains and dropped 6 paise to revisit its record low of 88.15 against the US dollar on Tuesday. *—PTI*

'India one of world's rapidly growing EV mkts'

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

India is now among the fastest-growing electric vehicle markets in the world, as over 1 million EV units were sold in the country in 2024-25, Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy said on Wednesday. He asserted that India's automobile industry is on the threshold of transformation, transitioning from internal combustion to clean mobility, and from the domestic market to global aspirations. "In 2024-25, India sold over one million electric vehicles, with electric two-wheelers growing 21 per cent and electric three-wheelers growing 57 per cent. India is now among the fastest-growing electric vehicle markets in the world," Kumaraswamy said. The minister made the remarks while delivering a video message at the Auto Retail Conclave organised by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) here. *—PTI*

Fitch ups India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.9%

Pace of economic activity rose sharply in March-June quarters

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Fitch Ratings on Wednesday raised India's GDP growth forecast to 6.9 per cent for current fiscal year, from 6.5 per cent earlier, citing strong June quarter growth and domestic consumption-led demand.

Fitch is the first global rating agency to have upped India's GDP growth estimates for current fiscal year after the string of downward revisions by various agencies earlier this year due to trade and tariff uncertainties.

In its Global Economic Outlook (GEO)-September, Fitch said the pace of economic activity accelerated sharply between the March and June quarters of current fiscal year. The real GDP growth in April-June rose to 7.8 per cent year-on-year, from 7.4 per cent in January-March.

In its June GEO report, Fitch had forecast a 6.7 per cent growth for the April-June quarter.

The real GDP growth in April-June rose to 7.8 per cent year-on-year, from 7.4 per cent in January-March PHOTO: FREEPIK

"On the back of the 2Q25 (April-June) outturn, Fitch has revised up its forecast for the fiscal year ending March 2026 (FY26) to 6.9 per cent from 6.5 per cent in the June GEO," it said. Fitch said the trade tensions with the US have increased in recent months, with the US imposing an additional 25 per cent tariff on imports from India.

Domestic demand will be the key driver of growth, as strong real income dynamics support consumer spending and looser financial conditions should feed through to investment, Fitch added.

Fitch's FY26 GDP growth estimate for India is highest among other comparable agencies. Finance Ministry's Economic Survey had projected India's growth to be between 6.3-6.8 per cent in current fiscal year.

The Reserve Bank of India, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and S&P Global Ratings projected India's GDP to expand 6.5 per cent in FY26.

Moody's Ratings estimates GDP to grow 6.3 per cent in 2025 calendar year.

International Monetary Fund and World Bank estimates GDP growth at 6.4 per cent and 6.3 per cent, respectively. *—PTI*

GST reforms to negate impact of tariffs: CEA

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms will help offset some of the adverse impacts of steep tariffs of 50 per cent imposed by the US with net impact of this on the GDP growth capping it at 0.2-0.3 per cent in the current financial year, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said on Wednesday.

On the plus side, the GST reforms will play an offsetting role by substituting domestic demand for whatever export demand that may not materialise from the US.

The GST Council last week decided to overhaul the tax regime by tweaking the four-slab GST structure of 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent, and 28 per cent to a two-slab structure of 5 per cent and 18 per cent.

The GST reforms will help alleviate the second and third round effects by creating domestic demand and therefore removing the uncertainty that will come in the way of capital formation, Nageswaran said while addressing an event organised by AIMA.

"The impact of the tariffs which were introduced in the middle of the fiscal year may be relatively limited, depending on the assumptions one makes, but the more important thing is the second and the third-round effects of the uncertainty around the tariffs," he said. He exuded confidence that the tariff situation will turn out to be transient and short-lived, rather than long lived. *—PTI*

Markets rally for 6th day amid US-India trade optimism

MUMBAI, 10 SEPT

Benchmark Sensex rose by 323 points while Nifty closed higher for the sixth consecutive day on Wednesday following buying in IT, select financial and capital goods shares amid renewed optimism over a successful conclusion of India-US trade talks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 323.83 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 81,425.15, registering its third straight day of gain. During the day, it jumped 542.56 points or 0.66 per cent to 81,643.88.

Rising for the sixth consecutive day, the 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 104.50 points or 0.42 per cent to close at 24,973.10.

A rally in IT and capital goods shares and hopes that the US Federal Reserve will cut interest rates next week also instilled optimism in the markets, analysts said.

Among Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics rose the most by 4.26 per cent. HCL Tech gained 2.57 per cent, Bajaj Finance by 2.19 per cent, TCS by 1.99 per cent, Tech Mahindra by 1.88 per cent and Infosys by 1.85 per cent. Gains in Axis Bank and State Bank of India also supported the rally.

However, Mahindra & Mahindra emerged as the biggest loser, falling by 2.47 per cent. Maruti dropped 1.53 per cent and Tata Motors by nearly 1 per cent due to profit-taking. UltraTech, Eternal and Power Grid were also among the laggards.

The BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.84 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.72 per cent.

As many as 2,410 stocks advanced while 1,717 declined and 155 remained unchanged on the BSE. *—PTI*

Equity MF inflows drop by 22% in Aug

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Inflow in equity mutual funds dropped by 22 per cent to Rs 33,430 crore in August primarily due to a sharp fall in new fund offers (NFOs), data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed on Wednesday.

Also, the latest fund infusion by investors marks the 54th consecutive month of net inflows into the segment.

According to the data, equity-oriented mutual funds witnessed an inflow of Rs 33,430 crore in August, a sharp decline from Rs 42,702 crore in the preceding month.

"The lower impact of new flow viz previous month roughly Rs 9,000 crore is to the extent of NFO's which were higher in July than August. Rest the flow momentum is steady and healthy," Akhil Chaturvedi, Executive Director and Chief Business Officer at Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company, said.

Within equity fund categories, the highest contribution came from Flexi Cap Funds at Rs 7,679 crore, followed by Mid Cap Funds with Rs 5,330 crore.

On the other hand, debt category witnessed a withdrawal of Rs 7,980 crore during the month under review.

Overall, the mutual fund industry experienced an infusion of Rs 52,443 crore in August, lower than Rs 1.8 lakh crore in July. *—PTI*

Crude prices rise by Rs 49 amid Middle-East tensions

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Crude oil prices rose Rs 49 to Rs 5,593 per barrel on Wednesday amid concerns that the conflict in the Middle East region could escalate following an Israeli strike in Qatar targeting Hamas leaders.

The most traded crude oil futures for September delivery on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) gained Rs 49 or 0.88 per cent to Rs 5,593 a barrel in 10,812 lots.

In the international markets, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil was trading 1.18 per cent higher to USD 63.37 per barrel while Brent Crude went up 1.17 per cent to USD 67.17 a barrel.

On Tuesday, Israel launched a strike on Doha, Qatar, targeting the senior leadership of Hamas.

Later, Qatar said that the attack by Israel violated international law and threatens to widen the conflict in the Middle East, the source of about one-third of global oil supplies.

This, in turn, boosts the WTI crude oil price.

Mohammad Imran, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset ShareKhan said "Market participants will be looking for US Energy Information Administration (EIA) weekly crude oil stock report, which is going to release later in the day and the crucial US Consumer Price Index data on Thursday."

The EIA Crude Oil inventories measures the weekly change in the number of barrels of commercial crude oil held by US firms.

The level of inventories influences the price of petroleum products, which can have an impact on inflation. *—PTI*

PhonePe, SIDBI partner to help access govt schemes

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Fintech major PhonePe on Wednesday signed an MoU with SIDBI to offer an end-to-end digital solution through the Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) to empower micro enterprises and merchants.

The collaboration aims to formalise Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs) across India by providing them with digital-first Udyam Assist registration, which enables them to access benefits including government schemes, credit facilities, and the broader digital payments ecosystem.

"Our partnership with SIDBI will unlock access to government schemes, credit facilities, and crucial benefits for MSMEs and will help contribute to India's economic vision. Through PhonePe's user-friendly and efficient, end-to-end digital solution, we're not just facilitating registration, we are translating the vision of empowering small and micro businesses into a seamless digital reality," CEO Hemant Gala said.

Merchants will soon be able to avail the facility on the PhonePe Business app. *—PTI*

IPHONE 17 TO HIT INDIAN STORES ON 19 SEPT

Apple is set to launch its highly anticipated iPhone 17 series in India on 19 September, with pre-orders opening on 12 September. The lineup includes three models, iPhone 17, iPhone 17 Pro, and iPhone 17 Pro Max, priced between ₹82,900 and ₹2,29,900. Here are the details:

FEATURES

- Storage capacity: **256GB, 512GB, 1TB,** with Pro Max series having a max storage of 2TB for the 1st time.
- 128GB discontinued.
- Extended playback of **8 hours compared** to iPhone 16.
- 10 minutes of charging can support 8 hours of video playback.
- The new **18MP front-facing camera** allows users to take horizontal selfies without rotating the phone.

iPhone 17

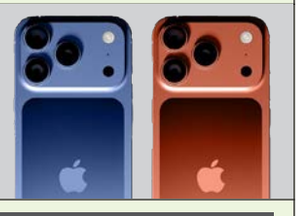
- **Rs 82,990.**
- Colours: Lavender, mist blue, sage, white and black.
- Display of **6.3 inches.**
- **48MP** main camera.
- Enhanced image processing via **A19 chip.**

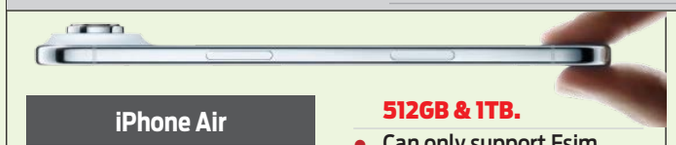
iPhone 17 Pro Max

- **Rs 1,49,900.**
- Colours: **Cosmic orange, deep blue, and silver.**

iPhone 17 Pro

- **Rs 1,34,900.**
- Colours: **Cosmic orange, deep blue, and silver.**
- It is said to be the most powerful and advanced iPhone.
- Triple camera setup with **48MP main sensor.**
- Up to **6x optical zoom.**
- Night mode across all lenses.





iPhone Air

- **Rs 1,19,900.**
- Thinnest ever iPhone with a **thickness of 5.6mm.**
- Storage capacity: **265GB, 512GB & 1TB.**
- Can only support Esim.
- It introduces plateau, a new design, where the camera spans the full width of the phone's back.

iPhone AirPods Pro 3

- **Rs 25,900.**
- Stronger in-ear stability.
- Heart-rate tracking.
- Live translation.
- Noise cancellation.
- Extended battery life.

'KIDS SEXUALLY HARASSED'

Whistleblowers claim Meta covering up harm to kids

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

In a shocking move, tech giant Meta's two former employees claimed that the company's virtual reality platform was harmful to children as they are exposed to content containing sexual activities, said sources.

According to NBC News, the former employees Jason Sattizahn and Cayce Savage, who worked as Meta's researchers and studied how minors used VR, alleged that the children were exposed to "nudity, sexual advances and even live acts of masturbation".

This comes days after another ex-employee called out Meta over WhatsApp's privacy risk, stating that the firm could access to sensitive user data through WhatsApp, said sources.

The former employees Jason Sattizahn and Cayce Savage worked as Meta's researchers and studied how minors used VR PHOTO: FREEPIK

Presenting themselves before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law, Sattizahn and Savage testified that Meta did not pay attention to their research, prevented them from probing deeper into issues related to newly launched products, and even erased evidence of a child being sexually harassed, said sources.

The testimony adds to a debate that has been going on since the pandemic, about CEO Mark Zuckerberg compromising the safety of minors on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, and now extending to VR headsets, said sources.

- Savage, who left the company in 2023, reported that children who were in VR were often bullied, sexually harassed, and manipulated into sharing nude pictures or doing sexual acts, said sources.

Many, including lawmaker, attorneys, and parents, have filed cases against Meta, sources added.

Sources said that Meta, over the years, has poured millions into the development of VR headsets yet according to the two former employees, the company neglected to allocate adequate resources for ensuring online safety.

Savage, who left the company in 2023, reported that children who were in VR were often bullied, sexually harassed, and manipulated into sharing nude pictures or doing sexual acts, said sources.

Sources said that the whistleblowers claim that Meta prioritizes damage control, altering reports to reduce legal exposure and instructing researchers to delete troubling data, including instances in Germany where children were coerced into sexual acts. *—Agencies*

Urban Company IPO fully subscribed on day one

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT

Urban Company Ltd, the app-based beauty and home services platform, saw its Rs 1,900-crore IPO fully subscribed within hours of opening on Wednesday. Bids for 13.54 crore shares against 10.67 crore on offer represented 1.27 times subscription. Retail investors subscribed 3.84 times, non-institutional investors 1.67 times, while QIBs took 20 per cent. Proceeds from the fresh issue of Rs 472 crore will fund technology, cloud infrastructure, office leases, marketing and general corporate purposes, while existing investors are selling shares worth Rs 1,428 crore.

Additionally, Flexible office-space provider Dev Accelerator Ltd's Rs 143.35-crore IPO was fully subscribed on the first day. Retail investors oversubscribed 7.10 times, QIBs 1.09 times and non-institutional investors 1.05 times. The issue, priced at Rs 56–61 per share, is entirely a fresh issue and will help fund new centre fit-outs, security deposits, debt repayment, lease liabilities and strategic expansion in major Indian cities.

Meanwhile, Decorative wall-panel maker Euro Pratik Sales Ltd set a price band of Rs 235–247 per share for its Rs 451.32-crore IPO, opening 16 September.

Shringar House of Mangalsutra Ltd's IPO, priced at Rs 155–165 per share, was fully subscribed within hours. *—PTI*

Indian male air pistol shooters falter in ISSF World Cup

Samrat Rana came agonisingly close to a finals appearance in the Men's 10m Air Pistol on the second day of the ISSF World Cup *PHOTO: PTI*

NINGBO, 10 SEPT

Indian shooters continued to falter in the ISSF World Cup (rifle/pistol) here with the trio of Samrat Rana, Amit Sharma, and Nishant Rawat failing to make the men's 10m air pistol final in the face of China's dominance on Wednesday.

Samrat, the 20-year-old former junior world championship gold medallist in team events, was the best Indian performer, finishing 10th in qualification with a below-par score of 582.

Hu Kai of China shot 589 to top the preliminary round. He then went on to win the gold with a score of 242.3. China's You Changjie took the silver with a score of 241.5.

China thus took their medals' tally to four, with two gold and as many silver. India, on the other hand, is yet to open their account.

Another Indian youngster, Amit Sharma, who had finished 11th in the 10m air pistol mixed team pairing with Surbhi Rao on Tuesday, ended up 28th with a score of 576, while Nishant Rawat was further down at 42nd with a tally of 568.

India's Divya Subbaraju did well in the precision round of 25m pistol to be placed seventh in a field of 37 shooters with a score of 291.

Divya had rounds of 97, 94, and 100 and will be in contention for a place in the final on Thursday when the rapid round is held.

The other Indian Abhidnya Patil is placed 19th (288), while Commonwealth and Asian Games gold-medallist Rahi Sarnobat was 26th with a score of 286.

As China bolstered its medal tally to two golds and two silvers, India remained without any medals.

Despite this, some Indian shooters like Divya Subbaraju showcased potential, maintaining a solid performance in other categories and looking to make an impact in the final rounds. *—PTI*

India beat UAE by nine wickets within 4.3 overs

Kuldeep Yadav didn't show any signs of rustiness

ABU DHABI, 10 SEPT

India has demolished the United Arab Emirates, UAE, in their opening match in the Asia Cup 2025, in Dubai. India scripted a record with the ball, bundling UAE out for their lowest-ever Asia Cup T20 total of just 57. With the bat, India chased down the target in just 4.3 overs to clinch a one-sided victory. Kuldeep Yadav was the star performer with the ball, picking up four wickets, including three in a single over. All-rounder Shivam Dube also scalped three wickets. As a result, Suryakumar Yadav's men picked up a massive victory in the first match in Group A, a group that also features Pakistan and Oman.

India's Kuldeep Yadav celebrates victory with captain Suryakumar Yadav *PHOTO: PTI*

B'desh vs Hong Kong Match starts at 8.00 pm IST

Kuldeep bamboozles UAE batters

Kuldeep Yadav didn't show any signs of rustiness while running through a clueless UAE batting line-up as India dismissed the home team for a paltry 57 in 13.1 overs in their Asia Cup opener here on Wednesday.

Jasprit Bumrah (1/19 in 3 oThe troika of spinners Kuldeep, Varun Chakravarthy (1/4 in 2 overs), and Axar Patel (1/13 in 3 overs) are bowlers whom the players from associate nations don't play regularly, and the UAE had no clue how to counter them. Shivam Dube (3/4 in 2 overs), whose bowling is going to be important heading into the T20 World Cup, helped himself with career-best figures, polishing off the tail in style. Skipper Muhammad Waseem (19 off 22 balls) found it difficult to get going, and when he tried to sweep Kuldeep, the ball bounced a tad extra.

In all, the Indian bowlers delivered 81 balls 13.1 overs plus two wides and UAE batters couldn't score off 52 deliveries.

UAE: 57 all out in 13.1 overs (Alishan Sharafu 22; Shivam Dube 3/4, Kuldeep Yadav 4/7).

India: 60 for 1 in 4.3 overs (Abhishek Sharma 30, Shubman Gill 20 not out; Junaid Siddique 1/16). *—PTI*

Afg beat Hong Kong by 94 runs

Afghanistan defeated Hong Kong by 94 runs in the Asia Cup tournament opener at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium here on Tuesday night. Opting to bat, opener Sediqullah Atal and Azmatullah Omarzai hit fine fifties as Afghanistan posted 188 for six. Atal (73 not out off 52 balls) and Mohammad Nabi (33) shared a 51-run stand for the third wicket before Omarzai provided the late charge with a blazing 21-ball 53. In reply, Hong Kong could manage only 94 for nine in 20 overs with Babar Hayat top-scoring with a 43-ball 39. Afghanistan 188 for 6 (Atal 73*, Omarzai 53, Kinchit 2-24) beat Hong Kong 94 for 9 (Hayat 39, Naib 2-8, Farooqi 2-16) by 94 runs

HONG KONG OPEN

Sindhu loses to Danish opponent

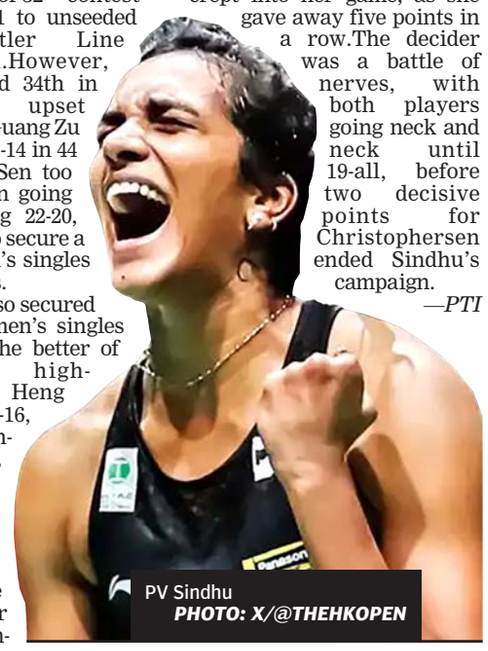
HONG KONG, 10 SEPT

India's two-time Olympic medallist shuttler PV Sindhu bowed out, while HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen scored hard-fought wins to advance in the Hong Kong Open Super 500 tournament here on Wednesday.Sindhu, who had reached the BWF World Championships quarterfinals last month, lost the women's singles round-of-32 contest 21-15, 16-21, 19-21 to unseeded Danish shuttler Line Christophersen.However, Prannoy, ranked 34th in the world, upset 14th-ranked Lu Guang Zu of China 21-17, 21-14 in 44 minutes, while Sen too got his campaign going with a gruelling 22-20, 16-21, 21-15 win to secure a place in the men's singles pre-quarterfinals.

Kiran George also secured a place in the men's singles last-16, getting the better of Singapore's higher-ranked Jia Heng Jason Teh 21-16, 21-11 in 34 minutes.For Sindhu, this was her first loss to the 25-year-old Christophersen in six outings, coming at a time when the star Indian was beginning to rediscover her form after early exits at the Swiss Open and Japan Open earlier this year.

Sindhu took an early 3-1 lead in the first game before her opponent equalised 5-all.

Leading 14-13, Sindhu upped her game, allowing Christophersen just one point before taking the opener.The second game saw the Indian leading 13-12 before errors crept into her game, as she gave away five points in a row.The decider was a battle of nerves, with both players going neck and neck until 19-all, before two decisive points for Christophersen ended Sindhu's campaign. *—PTI*



PV Sindhu *PHOTO: X/@THEHKOPEN*

The much-anticipated ICC Women's World Cup trophy has touched down in Guwahati, marking a proud moment for the city *PHOTO: PTI*

Women's Asia Cup hockey: India beat Korea 4-2

HANGZHOU, 10 SEPT

India continued their unbeaten run with a comfortable 4-2 win over Korea in their first Super 4 stage match of the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Wednesday.

India, which finished the pool stages at the top with seven points, scored through Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke (2nd minute), Sangita Kumari (33rd), Lalremsiami (40th), and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (59th). Yujin Kim (33rd, 53rd) scored both goals for Korea.

India will next play China on Thursday.

Guarding the goal in Savita Punia's absence, Bichu Devi Kharibam has been the obvious No. 1 choice between the posts for India.

PHOTO: PTI

Bansuri Solanki got to rotate against Thailand and Singapore, but Bichu played all four quarters against Japan, and that might be the case going forward in these big matches.

India earned an early penalty corner and struck the first blood through Vaishnavi, who scored from a rebound after Udita's initial slap shot was blocked by the Korean goalkeeper. *—PTI*

DULEEP TROPHY

First-season wonders from South, CZ look to build on bright start

BENGALURU, 10 SEPT

MATCH STARTS @ 9.30 AM

A clutch of young prospects such as Ravichandran Smaran and Danish Malewar will be eager to enter the selectors' thinking arc during the Duleep Trophy final between South Zone and Central Zone, starting here from Thursday.

The absence of some familiar stars, except Central skipper Rajat Patidar, owing to their India A duty against Australia A, might have given the match a barren look.

Ravichandran Smaran and Danish Malewar *PHOTO: PTI*

But it is equally exciting to watch some next-gen talents trying to push their cases to gain higher acclaim after making a blazing start to their respective domestic careers during the 2024-25 season.

None has been more impressive in that group than Smaran, whose seven first-class appearances for Karnataka have yielded 516 runs at an average of 64.50 with two hundreds. *—PTI*

CHOTRANI, AKANKSHA, AND TANVI ENTER SEMIFINALS

MUMBAI, 10 SEPT

Veer Chotrani, Akanksha Salunkhe, and Tanvi Khanna advanced to the semifinals of the HCL Squash Indian Tour 2, a PSA Challenger event, here on Wednesday.

Men's top seed Chotrani rallied to beat Egypt's Seif Shenawy 9-11, 11-4, 11-9, 11-3 in 36 minutes in the quarterfinals, and will meet Ming Hong Tang of Hong Kong in the last-four stage on Thursday.

Women's second seed Akanksha defeated Egyptian eighth seed Lojayn Gohary 11-5, 11-5, 12-10 in 29 minutes in the quarterfinals, and will lock horns with her sixth-seed compatriot Tanvi for a place in the final.

PHOTO: PTI

Tanvi, who was runner-up in the first leg in Jaipur in August, edged out French third seed Enora Villard 11-4, 11-9, 11-9 in 27 minutes.

Meanwhile, seventh seed Suraj Kumar Chand went down to Shing Fung Lam in a five-game thriller contested over 51 minutes, his opponent from Hong Kong recovering twice to win 6-11, 11-5, 3-11, 11-6, 11-6. *—PTI*

Recurve archers flop again: Women miss bronze

GWANGJU, 10 SEPT

Indian recurve archers once again flattered to deceive at the World Championships as the women's team lost to South Korea in the bronze medal playoff, while the mixed pair and men's individual hopes also crashed out on Wednesday. Desperate to end a decade-long medal drought at the Worlds, the women's trio of Deepika Kumari, Gatha Khadake, and Ankita Bhakat failed to seize the big moments against their familiar nemesis, going down 3-5 against South Korea. Rahul impressed on debut but lost in a shoot-off, while Dhiraj Bommadevara and Neeraj Chauhan suffered early defeats at the World Archery Championships. Indian men's recurve archers endured a disappointing outing at the World Championships on Wednesday.*—PTI*

PHOTO: X/@GOUT

Gout is drawing comparisons with Usain Bolt

BRISBANE, 10 SEPT

Gout Gout will try to catch up again with world champion Noah Lyles, deal with those inevitable comparisons with Usain Bolt, and then race back to school in Australia. The track and field world championships will be a short, sharp learning curve for the 17-year-old high school senior who has taken track and field by storm Down Under. Gout will contest the 200 meters in a big field that includes U.S. star Lyles at Tokyo's Olympic Stadium, where he's hoping to lower the Australian record again. He made headlines in December when he ran 20.04 seconds to shatter the national mark that had stood since 1968, making him the fastest 16-year-old ever over the distance.*—PTI*

Brevis, Markram smash SA20 auction records

JOHANNESBURG, 10 SEPT

South African batters Dewald Brevis and Aiden Markram fetched record sums at the SA20 Season 4 player auction, becoming the most expensive buys in the league's history. Brevis was bought by Sourav Ganguly-coached Pretoria Capitals for R16.5 million (approx Rs 8.3 crore), surpassing the previous record of R9.2 million (approx Rs 4.6 crore) paid for Tristan Stubbs in 2022. The Centurion-based franchise, with new head coach Ganguly at the helm, beat stiff competition from Joburg Super Kings to secure the 22-year-old. "I hope he does well. I think he is a tremendous talent. His game has really progressed over the last one-and-a-half years. *—PTI*

World Boxing: Nupur assures India of a medal

LIVERPOOL, 10 SEPT

Heavyweight boxer Nupur Sheoran assured India of its first medal at the ongoing World Boxing Championships when she defeated Oltinoy Sotimboeva of Uzbekistan to enter the semifinals here on Wednesday.

Competing in her first bout of the championships, Nupur prevailed 4-1 over her opponent to make the last four stage of the +80kg event, which features only 10 boxers. With the win, Nupur is assured of at least a bronze medal.On Tuesday night, Jadumani Singh (48kg) and Abhinash Jamwal (65kg) had moved to the men's quarterfinals. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Devine to lead NZ in Women's ODI World Cup

AUCKLAND, 10 SEPT

Veteran all-rounder Sophie Devine, featuring in her fifth campaign, will lead New Zealand in the Women's ODI World Cup later this month, with four cricketers set for their maiden senior ICC tournament. The 15-member squad announced on Wednesday has six players making their World Cup debuts. The squad also has stalwarts Suzie Bates and pacer Lea Tahuhu, who will be appearing in their fifth and fourth ODI World Cups, respectively. Maddy Green and Melie Kerr add solidity to the squad, having featured in three editions of the event.*—PTI*

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

Erling Haaland scores 5 goals with stitches

OSLO, 10 SEPT

Bearing stitches on his face from a bizarre accident with a bus door, Erling Haaland made his mark for the Norwegian national team by scoring five goals in an 11-1 win over Moldova in World Cup qualifying Tuesday.

The Manchester City striker had a hat trick by halftime but didn't stop there, finishing with Norway's second, third, fourth, sixth, and 10th goals in one of the all-time biggest wins in European qualification for the World Cup. Haaland did it all after requiring three stitches for getting "banged out" by the door of a bus, as he described it on social media, in an unusual accident, reportedly while he exited the vehicle at the team hotel.

ERLING HAALAND PHOTO: X/@ HAALAND

Haaland scored two of his goals off passes from Arsenal's Martin Odegaard, who also had a goal of his own. Felix Myhre scored one and set up Haaland's first, while substitute Thelo Aasgaard was in the unusual position of scoring four goals but not being his team's top scorer. Even Moldova's goal was scored by a Norwegian as defender Leo Ostigard sent an attempted pass into his own net.

It was the biggest win of this World Cup qualifying cycle in Europe, surpassing an 8-0 victory for the Netherlands over Malta in June, and came close to the all-time European qualification record, a 12-0 win by West Germany against Cyprus in 1969. It equaled Norway's largest margin of victory in a competitive game. Moldova, ranked 154th in the world and sixth from last in Europe, has lost all five of its qualifying games and conceded a total of 25 goals, scoring only three.

Even so, a quirk of the qualifying system means it still has a chance of reaching the World Cup. Moldova won a group in the lowest-tier Nations League against Malta and Andorra, and so could end up receiving a spot in the playoff round. *—PTI*

Bolivia 1-0 Brazil: On the right track for WC, says Carlo

LONDON, 10 SEPT

Carlo Ancelotti believes that Brazil are on the right track for next year's World Cup despite closing out their qualifying campaign with a 1-0 defeat to Bolivia.

Ancelotti watched on as Miguel Terceros' first-half penalty ensured Bolivia finished in seventh place in the standings, thus qualifying for the intercontinental playoffs.

With Brazil having already qualified for the tournament taking place across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, they struggled to maintain any kind of rhythm on Tuesday.

Indeed, Brazil managed an expected goals (xG) total of just 0.36 from their 10 shots, only three of which were on target, compared to Bolivia's 1.78 from their 23 attempts.

The result marked Ancelotti's first defeat since taking charge of the Selecao in May, with the Italian having replaced Dorival Junior following a poor run of form. *—PTI*

Carlo Ancelotti PHOTO: X/@ MRANCELOTTI